



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

DECEMBER 24, 2011

4:00 P.M.

GATHERING AND WELCOME

PRELUDE

“O Come All Ye Faithful”
setting: David Lasky

Wes Kirkpatrick, organ

(The children are invited to the Chancel steps during the prelude when indicated by Pastor Bee and Amy Pearson.)

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

“The Family Story Bible”

(The children may return to their families during the singing of the Carols)

*THE CAROLS OF CHRISTMAS

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

UMH 240
tune: MENDELSSOHN

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

(verses 1, 2, and 4)

UMH 230

tune: ST. LOUIS

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”
(verses 1 & 2)

UMH 218
tune: CAROL

PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

OFFERING

“Still, Still, Still”
setting: Bill Wolaver

DOXOLOGY FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

O Glorious God, to you we bring
All that we are as offering;
Spirit of Light, among us dwell;
Come Jesus, our Emmanuel.

GOSPEL LESSON

John 1: 5-9

REFLECTIONS ON THE LIGHT

“Light of the World”

Dr. R. Mark Matheny

THE CAROL

“What Child is This?”
(verses 1 & 2)

UMH 219
tune: GREENSLEEVES





SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

CONFESSION

On this night, O God, we confess that we do not want to confess. We do not want to examine our hearts before you and admit to the dark places. We want you to warm us in candlelight, carols and communion. We desire soft light tonight; not the blinding shining of your glory that terrified the shepherds. We cannot stand in that light. God among us, forgive us. Help us hear your angel saying, "Do not be afraid." Flood our hearts with the light that drives out all our darkness. Straighten our backs and loose our timid tongues that we might sing, "Glory."

PARDON AND RESPONSE

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING *(sung to "Away in a Manger")*

**Lord, now in your mercy, your servants release.
As your word has promised, oh, grant us your peace.
Our eyes your salvation and mercy behold,
prepared for the nations as prophets foretold.
A light to the Gentiles, by whom they now see,
the glory of Israel, the Promised One be,
who lives now and ever, the heaven's bright Son,
with Father and Spirit, eternally one.**

SHARING THE LIGHT

On the Eve of Christmas... **hatred will vanish.**

On the Eve of Christmas... **the earth will flourish.**

On the Eve of Christmas... **war will be gone.**

On the Eve of Christmas... **love will be born.**

When we offer a glass of water to a thirsty person... **it is Christmas.**

When we clothe a naked person with a gown of love... **it is Christmas.**

When we wipe the tears from weeping eyes... **it is Christmas.**

When the spirit of revenge dies in me... **it is Christmas.**

When in my heart I no longer want to stay apart... **it is Christmas.**

When I am embraced by the Light of God... **it is Christmas.**

*CAROL

"Silent Night"

tune: STILLE NACHE

*BENEDICTION

*THE RINGING IN OF CHRISTMAS

"Joy to the World"

UMH 246

*THE BLESSING

May the Lord of Light and Joy be with you,
And also with you.

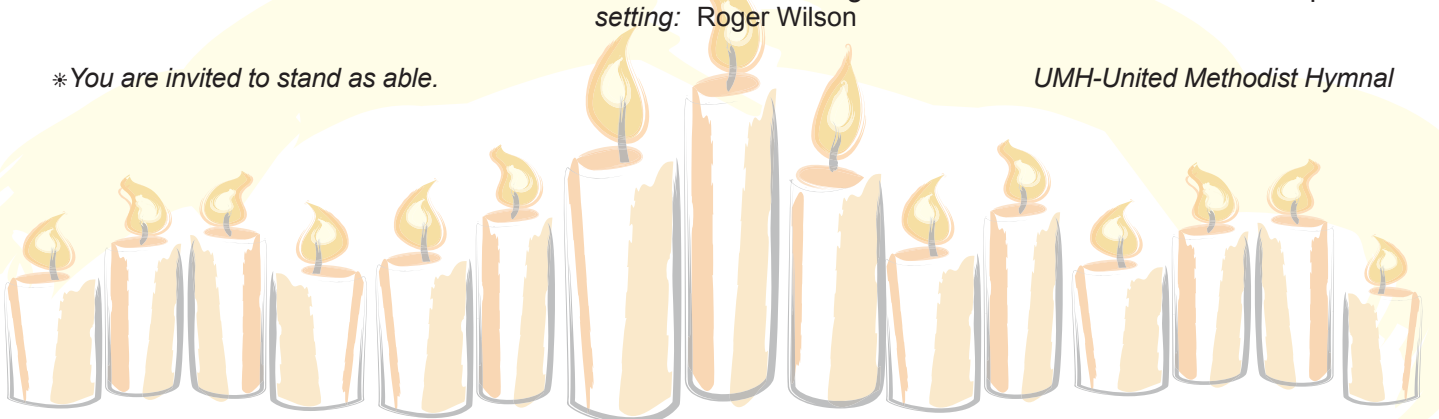
*POSTLUDE

Pastorale on "Silent Night"
setting: Roger Wilson

Mr. Kirkpatrick

*You are invited to stand as able.

UMH-United Methodist Hymnal



ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

480 S. Highland • Memphis, TN 38111 • 452-6262 • www.stlukesumc.org

Join us on Christmas Day for a pot-luck breakfast, 10:00 a.m. and casual Worship, 10:50 a.m.

New Years Day Services, Jan. 1, 2012, 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m.