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In-house and Live-stream Worship

December 24, 2022

7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve

Gathering

Gathering Music

O Holy Night

Arr. Tom Roed

Adam Ferrara, piano

Pastoral Welcome with Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

Invocation with Dakota Koenig, Certified Lay Minister

Loving God, we offer our thanks for the gift of love born to us on this most joyous night. Like the shepherds, let us approach the manger with wonder and awe. Like the magi, let us come with grateful hearts. And let us open our hearts to receive the good news of which the angels sang. On this most holy night, we offer our prayers for peace in our world. Help us to make peace possible as we follow in the footsteps of the maker of peace who came to us as a babe in Bethlehem. Amen.

Advent Candle Lighting Song

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel UMH 211, Vs. 1-3

Words: 9th Century Latin

Music: 15th Century French

Praise Band

Advent Candle Lighting with the Hallock Family

Watch and wait for Christ's coming! Light candles of hope, peace, joy and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer. Light the candle of our Christ.

We light this candle for hope.

We light this candle for peace.

We light this candle for joy.

We light this candle for love.

As our redemption draws near, we light this candle for our Christ.

The prophet Isaiah said, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son is given to us."

Let us pray, **Holy One, we see the light that is God's light. The light of God is joy for all the earth, peace that brings healing and love that sustains us eternally. The angels have brought the message and we celebrate the birth of the Christ child tonight! Glory to God in the highest! Amen.**

Hymn

Joy to the World UMH 246, Vs. 1-3

Words: Isaac Watts

Music: G.F. Handel, arr. Lowell Mason

Adam Ferrara, organ

Scripture Reading with John Giard

Isaiah 9:2-7 (NRSV)

Sharing the Word

Hymn

What Child Is This UMH 219, Vs. 1-2

Words: William C. Dix

Music: 16th cent. English melody

Adam Ferrara

Scripture Reading with John Giard

Luke 2:1-14 (NRSV)

Hymn

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing UMH 240, Vs. 1-3

Words: Charles Wesley

Music: Felix Mendelssohn

Adam Ferrara, organ

Scripture Reading with Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

Luke 2:15-20 (NRSV)

Christmas Eve Homily

The Christmas Moment

Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

Special Music

Celtic Christmas Blessing

Words and Music: Craig Curry

Chancel Choir

Response to the Word

***Call to Offering and Action** with Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

Dedication Prayer

Gracious God, our focus for much of this season has been on purchasing gifts for others, or wondering what we will receive. We sometimes forget that all we have comes from you. And that the most precious gift we will ever receive is your grace. It is right that we offer you our gifts, freely and joyfully given to your glory and to further the work of your kingdom. Bless our finances that they may better this community in your name and bless our commitment to action that we may be your hands and feet in the world. Amen.

Commissioned into the World

Closing Song with Candle Lighting

Silent Night, Holy Night UMH 239, Vs 1-4

Words: Joseph Mohr

Music: Franz Gruber

Adam Ferrara

Benediction with Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

Postlude

Silent Night, Holy Night UMH 239, Vs 1-4

Words: Joseph Mohr

Music: Franz Gruber

Adam Ferrara

Pastors: Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw, Associate Pastor of Music and Visitation, Rev. Frank Hallock and Dakota Koenig, Certified Lay Minister

Music Acknowledgements

Praise Band: Greg Rye, Roy Good, Jimmy Patton, Adam Ferrara, Alden Stoneman, Heather Clarke, Barbara Mitchell and Jan Simpson

“O Holy Night” Music Adophe Adam, 1847, *Advanced Piano Solos Complete: Christmas Edition*, arr. Tom Roed © 1995 Alfred Music Publishing, All rights reserved.

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Announcements

Christmas Call to Offering and Action: We believe that faith isn't just the words we speak in worship, but also how we live our lives. We believe that we are called to give financially to support the ministry of this church, and also to give our time and talents. We believe caring for our neighbor is an act of faith. We believe that showing patience and compassion to a stranger is an act of faith. We believe that lifting the broken and housing the unhoused is an act of faith. We believe that being a follower of Jesus isn't just for a Sunday, but happens every day of the week.

Financial Contributions to our ongoing ministry can be made at the giving box in the narthex. Thank you so much for your caring support.

Sunday Mornings at UMC Vista: If you are new to this faith community or new to the area, WELCOME! We hope you will return another time. Our *Sunday morning service tomorrow is at 10 a.m. online* We also have a YouTube channel where you can find the previous worship services, and other material from Pastor Leigh Ann. Bring your favorite coffee and join us!