

Gathering *Pre Service Music* - Ann

Welcome

Hymn *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (vv 1 & 4) **234**

Lighting the Advent Wreath *text via GBoD/DM*

Congregation: **We live as people in the in-between who
celebrate the arrival of the Light that shines in lost and
broken places as we wait for the day when we will live in
the fullness of God's kin-dom.**

The Candle of Hope, verse 5 **uses tune #73**
see back page

Call to Worship *(Adapted from Latin antiphon)*

On this night, Christ is born!

Now the Savior has appeared!

On this night, the heavenly chorus resounds!

All creation rejoices!

*On this night, the church throughout the world
joins their cry:*

Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia!

Hymn *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* (all verses) **240**

Prayer for Illumination *(adapted from Lessons and Carols)*

**Open us, O God,
to hear again the message of the angels,
and to go in heart and mind with the shepherds
to Bethlehem to see the glorious redemption
you have brought to pass
through the Newborn lying in a manger.**

Amen.

Gospel Reading 1 **Luke 1: 26-38**

Solo: *Breath of Heaven* - Julie

Gospel Reading 2 **Luke 2: 1-7**

Hymn *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (vv 1 & 4) **230**

Gospel Reading 3 **Luke 2: 8-14**

Choir: *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

Hymn *The First Noel the Angel Did Say* (vv 1 & 2) **245**

Poem - *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*
Christmas Bells, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow - 1807-1882

Gospel Reading 4 **Luke 2: 15-20**

Choir: *What Child Is This*

Poem 2 *Some Children See Him*
by Wihla Hutson & Alfred S. Burt 1951.

Duet: *O Holy Night* - Julie and Clark

Dim the Lights

Candle Lighting *Silent Night* (all verses) **239**

Epistle Lesson **Titus 3:4-7**

Solo: *Christmas Hallelujah* - Lily

Hymn *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

Dismissal *Howard Thurman, (1973)*
The Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations (67-68).

I will light Candles this Christmas;
Candles of joy **despite all sadness,**
Candles of hope **where despair keeps watch,**
Candles of courage **for fears ever present,**
Candles of peace **for tempest-tossed days,**
Candles of grace **to ease heavy burdens,**
Candles of love **to inspire all my living,**
I will light Candles this Christmas;
Candles that will burn all the year long

Pastor: Christ the Savior is born.

Go and spread the good news everywhere!

People: Thanks be to God.

House Lights back up.

Hymn *Joy to the World* **246**

The Candle of Hope

1 The can - dle of hope we light in this hour
 2 The can - dle of peace shines bright with God's plan;
 3 The can - dle of joy re - minds us to sing,
 4 The can - dle of love tells what we are worth;
 5 The Christ can - dle's light that shines for us here

pro - claims that the Lord is com - ing in power.
 the wolf will lie down and dwell with the lamb.
 for God is at work to do a new thing.
 God loves us so much, God came to the earth!
 tells out the good news that God has come near!

We wait for a fu - ture, now hid - den from view,
 Our guns and our wea - pons, our ha - tred and war,
 The proud will be hum - bled; the low - ly will rise.
 An an - gel brought news of a child who would be
 God came, a poor ba - by, in one time and place,

when Christ in his glo - ry will make all things new.
 will give way to gar - dens that heal and re - store.
 God's King - dom is one of de - light and sur - prise.
 the one who would save us and set us all free.
 to show all cre - a - tion the wealth of God's grace.

Biblical References: Hope: Matt. 24:36-44, Mark 13:24-37; Peace: Isa. 11:1-10, Luke 1:68-79, Isa. 2:4; Joy: Luke 1:46b-55; Love: John 3:16-17, Luke 1:26-38, Matt. 1:18-25; Christ: Luke 2:1-20, John 1:1-14, Titus 3:4-7
 Tune: LYONS 10.10.11.11 ("O Worship the King, All Glorious Above"); Joseph Martin Kraus, 1784.
 Alternate Tune: HANOVER ("Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim"); attr. William Croft, 1708.
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Artist: Gerard (or Gerrit) van Honthorst, 1590 – 1656

Title: Adoration of the Shepherds (1622)

Museum: Wallraf-Richartz Museum, Cologne

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CHRISTMAS EVE

at Clarksburg United Methodist Church
 7:00pm – December 24, 2023