

Invitation

Prayer of Confession

Most merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole hearts. We have failed to make room for you in our hearts. We have not sough Jesus when he was hard to find. We have not heard the cry of those in need or respond with justice to those oppressed. Forgive us, we pray and free us to share the good news through Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

Words of Assurance

The Great Thanksgiving

Prayer After Receiving

Emmanuel, God with us, in this holy meal, you have offered yourself to us. Let us go forth singing your praises and offering ourselves for others. In the name of the Christ, we pray, Amen.

***SHARING OF THE CHRISTMAS LIGHT**

As we celebrate the birth of a baby and the coming of a King, we are called to spread the light. We lit our candles as a way to help us remember where Jesus is and others to know. Receive the light from your neighbor with your candle upright and then, lean your candle to share with a neighbor.

***Carol** "Silent Night, Holy Night" No. 239

***Old Testament Reading** *Isaiah 9: 2-7*

***Carol** "Joy to the World" No. 246

***Benediction**

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*** = *Please stand as you are able***

Thank you to Betsy Smith and the members of the Chancel Choir for the wonderful music tonight!

Thank you to the Creating Spaces Team for their work throughout the season to beautify our sanctuary and lobby for God's Glory.

Merry Christmas!

West Grove United Methodist Church
The Reverend Monica B. Guepet, Lead Pastor
The Reverend S. James Mundell, Associate Pastor
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CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

December 24, 2015 ~ 11:00 p.m.

Prelude

Greeting

Pastor Monica

*Call to Worship

One: In a little town, known for nothing much, God's holy child was born.

Many: Welcome the Light!

One: By the faint light of the moon, Mary and Joseph found their way.

Many: Welcome the Light!

One: Shown by a courtyard fire, the open stable door.

Many: Welcome the Light!

One: Warm breath of resting beasts, kindly sparkle in their eyes.

Many: Welcome the Light!

One: In the shadowy stable stall, Joseph kindled a lamp.

Many: Welcome the Light!

One: There Mary gave birth to Jesus, called God-With-Us.

Many: Welcome the Light!

One: Angels opened the doors of heaven, sang, "Glory to God in the heights!"

Many: Welcome the Light!

One: Shepherds saw the sky ablaze, left their sheep and came to see.

Many: Welcome the Light!

One: In the darkest winter night, God set a brilliant star.

Many: Welcome the Light!

One: Magi from the East divined God's shining sign.

Many: Welcome the Light!

One: And on this Christmas night with joy, we greet the Child.

Many: Welcome the Light!

***Processional Choir Anthem** "O Come All Ye Faithful" Chancel Choir

Processional Carol "O Come, All Ye Faithful" No. 234 Vv. 1-3, 6

Opening Prayer (written by Robert Louis Stevenson)

**Loving God,
help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.
Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.
May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:1-5

Passing of the peace

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us share a sign of God's peace with one another.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath and Christ Candle "Lift Up Your Eyes"

Reader: For anyone who has walked in darkness, a new light has dawned!

All: O come, let us adore him!

Reader: For anyone who has ever felt forgotten, a new light has dawned!

All: O come, let us adore him!

Reader: For anyone whose patience has been put to the test, a new light has dawned!

All: O come, let us adore him!

Reader: For anyone in search of the way, the truth, and the life, a new day has dawned!

All: O come, let us adore him!

Reader: Tonight we light all the candles as we open our eyes to the glory of Christ's birth. As we light the first candle, we celebrate the hope that transcends our hurting world. The second candle celebrates the peace that tears the veil of hostility and division. The third candle celebrates the love that covers our guilt. And as we light the fourth candle, we celebrate the joy that can dry every tear. The flame of the Christ Candle opens our eyes to God's everlasting light, as we celebrate the way to worship Christ, our newborn King.

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:6-7

Anthem

"Still, Still, Still"

Chancel Choir

*Gospel Reading

Luke 2:8-12

*Gospel Reading

Luke 2:13-20

*Response to the Lessons

One: This is the word of God for the people of God.

Many: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Anthem

"Gloria"

Chancel Choir

Christmas Meditation "Picture the Prince of Peace"

Pastor Monica

Offering

*Doxology

"What Child Is This"

No. 219, V.3

**So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,
come peasant king to own him.**

**The King of Kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.**

**This, this is Christ the King whom shepherds guard
and angels sing,**

Haste, Haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.