

LIGHTING OF ALTAR CANDLES

Jiho & Jisung Yim

PRELUDE

Vivian Eaton

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES & CHRIST CANDLE

Jiho & Jisung Yim

Molly Andersen: We light Advent candles as a sign of love, peace, joy and hope of God in our lives. The true light is shining in the world. It is the light of our beloved Savior Jesus Christ. We light this Christ candle and remember how much Jesus loves us and the world.

**Please, light the candles while singing**

UMH #242 (Screen) "Love Came Down at Christmas"

1. Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine; Love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.

2. Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love divine; worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign?

3. Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine; love to God and all men, love for plea and gift and sign.

WELCOME

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Molly Andersen

L: Glory to God in the highest!

**P: And hope to every discouraged heart.**

L: Glory to God in the highest!

**P: And peace to every conflicted soul.**

L: Glory to God in the highest!

**P: And joy to every downcast spirit.**

L: Glory to God in the highest!

**P: And love to everyone.**

L: Let us sing praises to our God.

**E: Let us offer this light against the darkness.**

\*HYMN #240 "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

1. Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new born King!"

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored;  
Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail th' incarnate Deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King!"

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new born King!"

CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION (In Unison): **We believe in God, the creator and giver of life, who brought all creation to birth, who mothers us and fathers us, protecting, nurturing, and cherishing us. We believe in Jesus Christ: God born among us as a fragile baby, embodying both love and the need for love, and calling us to rest in God as trustingly as a tiny child. We believe in the Holy**

**Spirit, breathed into us at our birth, always drawing us on to be born again, encouraging, exhorting, comforting, nourishing our growth and inspiring our living. Holy God of Love, there is light in our lives because of the abundance of your steadfast love. A love so vast, so deep, so real, that you became one of us. May we live within the power of this love. And may we share its light with a world where too many dwell in darkness. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

Titus 2:11-14 (CEB)

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people. It educates us so that we can live sensible, ethical, and godly lives right now by rejecting ungodly lives and the desires of this world. At the same time we wait for the blessed hope and the glorious appearance of our great God and savior Jesus Christ. He gave himself for us in order to rescue us from every kind of lawless behavior, and cleanse a special people for himself who are eager to do good actions.

GOSPEL LESSON

John 3:16-18 (CEB)

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life. God didn't send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him isn't judged; whoever doesn't believe in him is already judged, because they don't believe in the name of God's only Son.

HYMN #221 "In the Bleak Midwinter"

1. In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

2. Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.  
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

3. Angels and archangels may have gathered there,

cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,  
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

4. What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

CHRISTMAS DEVOTION

Pastor Dave

HOLY COMMUNION

CONFESSION AND PARDON

THE PEACE

OFFERING OURSELVES

SPECIAL MUSIC "O Holy Night" Brennon Cavanagh

\*DOXOLOGY

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER (In Unison): **God of the stars and the angels' songs, as we gather this evening, all our attention is focused on the baby Jesus who came to give us light and peace. As we present gifts to you, we pray that they might reach those in the greatest need, that they might lift those in the deepest despair, and that they might bring peace and compassion to those who find themselves amidst conflict. We pray this in the name of that Holy Child, Jesus the Christ, our Savior and Redeemer! Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE BREAD AND CUP

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST FILLS OUR HEARTS

*The Sanctuary lights will be dimmed, and the ushers will come forward to the Christ Candle with the lighters to get the flame while we are singing UMH #204, "Emmanuel, Emmanuel." The ushers will pass the flames to the first person in every pew, and that person will pass it to the next, and so on. May we all take care to assure that we do this safely. Then, we will be singing "Silent Night, Holy Night" all together.*

HYMN #239 "Silent Night, Holy Night" (Screen)

*Please, raise your candle carefully during the third stanza as a tribute to God's Wondrous Light, Jesus Christ, shining in our lives and through us to the world.*

1. Silent night, holy night,  
all is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin  
mother and child.  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night,  
shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born!

3. Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light;  
radiant beams from thy holy face  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

4. Silent night, holy night,  
wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing,  
Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born!

BLESSING

*All candles are to be snuffed after blessing.*

POSTLUDE

Vivian Eaton



First United  
Methodist Church  
Saturday, December 24, 2022  
Christmas Eve  
7 pm

**Vision 2022 – "Love Others!"**

Outward Focused Ministry during/after the Pandemic  
(To build up a strong and safe community)  
Strong in Mission, Strong in Justice, Strong in Diversity

*"All the believers were together and had everything  
in common."* (Acts 2:44)

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