

Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome You on this Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023 - 7:00PM

Dr. James Cope, Pastor Janice Garinger, Pastor in Care



Gathering around the Word

Christmas Eve Prelude Audrey Bingaman

Ringling of the Church Tower Bell

Lighting of the Christ Candle

***Hymn** **“O Come All Ye Faithful”** **#112(RED)**

***Opening Prayer**

Leader: Let the love that shaped earth and heaven

All: dwell within us this Christmas.

Leader: Let the love that created humanity

All: dwell within us this Christmas.

Leader: Let the love that overcomes suffering and hatred

All: dwell within us this Christmas.

Leader: Let the love that causes us to rejoice with loved ones

All: dwell within us this Christmas.

Leader: Let the love that forgives and renews

All: dwell within us this Christmas.

Leader: Let the love that brings reconciliation after separation

All: dwell within us this Christmas.

Leader: Let the love that brings the blessing of peace

All: dwell within us this Christmas.

Leader: And may we share that peace

All: with all people near and far.

Listening for the Word

Reading of the Gospel

Luke 2: 1-20

Special Music

“O Holy Night”

Ronald Boyer

Christmas Eve Message

James Cope

Hymn

“Love Came Down at Christmas”

#165(NCH)

Responding to the Word

Call to Offering

Offering

***Offertory Response**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;

Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

***Offertory Prayer**

God of all creation. Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.

Receive our offerings, and nourish us at your table, that your Word may take

flesh in our lives; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our

Lord. Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord our God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is indeed right ...and join in their unending hymn: (Tune: Hark the Herald Angels Sing)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of heav'n and earth adored.
O how blest is he who comes
In the holy name of God.
Joyful, all you nations rise;**

**Join the triumph of the skies
With angelic hosts proclaim
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The Herald angels sing.
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

Eucharistic Prayer (Words of Institution)

Our Lord's Prayer

Communion – Sharing of the Elements

Communion Prayer (Unison)

Gracious God, in the incarnation of your Son you have united earth and heaven. May we who have tasted heavenly things share the gift of your presence with all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

. Christmas Eve Candle-Lighting Service

Gospel Procession

Hymn "What Child is This?" #148(NCH)

***The Gospel (please rise for this portion of the service)**

*Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the first chapter.

***All: Praise to you, O Christ**

*Leader: John 1: 1-14

*Leader: The gospel of the Lord.

***All: Thanks be to God!**

Leader: We come to a special portion of tonight's service. As Christ comes bringing the light of God's love, we light our individual candles to signify our individual and collective commitment to live as Christ's faithful in the world. The light will be brought to the end of each row, tip your candle into the flame so that it may take hold. Pass the light along your row until every candle is lit. As the candles are lit we will join in singing and stand on the last verse.

***Carol** "Silent Night! Holy Night!" #101(RED)

*Leader: One candle is but a flicker, but together, we create a bright flame of Christ's light in the world. Consider the beauty of our lights shining together. Jesus is the light of the world! Jesus is the hope of all our tomorrows! May we be witnesses of the light Christ brings. As you gently extinguish your candle, carry the light of Jesus' love with you.

*Benediction

***Carol** "Angels We have Heard on High" #105(RED)

*Postlude

*Indicates that all who are able, please stand. **Bold** print indicates unison reading.