

†DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastor: Christ the Savior is born.  
Go and spread the good news everywhere!  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

†Recessional "Joy to the World" UMH #246 v1

Postlude *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* by Felix Mendelssohn

*\*Please pick up your Poinsettia's after service. They were last watered Wed. morning.*

Sunday, January 2: Please plan to stay after the second service (10:50) to help remove the Christmas decorations and carry them to the activity room.  
On Wednesday, January 5th at 1:00, we will box up and put away all the beautiful Christmas decorations. We hope that lots of helpers will make quick work of this project. (30-45 minutes) Thank you. Mary Nelmes



2200 16<sup>th</sup> Ave, Sterling IL 61081  
Website: <http://www.sterlingwesley.org>  
Find us on Facebook: SterlingWesleyUMC  
815.625.1968  
Office: [office@sterlingwesley.org](mailto:office@sterlingwesley.org)  
Rev. Paul H. Lee  
Parsonage: 815-631-3063  
Pastor's email: [lovegn247@gmail.com](mailto:lovegn247@gmail.com)

A background image of several lit candles in a dark setting, with a warm, golden glow. The candles are of various heights and are lit, with their flames clearly visible. The background is dark, making the light from the candles stand out.

❄️ CHRISTMAS EVE ❄️  
CANDLELIGHT

**Welcome to  
Wesley United Methodist Church  
Christmas Eve, December 24, 2021**

**ENTRANCE**

**PRELUDE** *The Christmas Rose* Christmas Chorale/arr. Gilbert M. Martin  
*Little Town of Bethlehem* by Lewis H. Redner/arr. Ellen Jane Lorenz  
*Christmas Pastorale* carols by J.R. Murray & F. Gruber  
arr. Robert J. Hughes

**†CALL TO WORSHIP**

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** "In the Bleak Midwinter" UMH #221 v 1,4

**LIGHTING THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE— JESUS CHRIST**

Leader: The angel said to the shepherds, "Do not be afraid! For see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people! To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord! (Luke 2:10-12)  
We light the Christ Candle to symbolize the birth of Jesus - at last! After weeks of waiting! This candle represents not the completion of our Advent journey, but the continuation of it, as we continue to spread God's hope, peace, joy, and love to every single person we meet.

We light this candle not to drown out the darkness, but to illuminate what we have to learn from it.

\* \* \*

Let us pray

**ALL: Loving God, we thank you for your Son Jesus, who shows up once again to be with us here and now! Help us share this incredible story with everyone we meet, not just today, but every single day. Amen!**

**WORD AND RESPONSE**

**Reader 1: Luke 2: 1-3**

**HYMN** 7:00pm It Came Upon the Midnight Clear UMH #218 vs1,3  
11:00pm *Mary, Did You Know?* By Mark Lowry / Buddy Greene  
Katie Herath

**Reader 2: Luke 2: 4-7**

**HYMN** "Angels We Have Heard on High" UMH #238 vs 1,2

**Reader 3: Luke 2: 8-14**

**HYMN** "What Child Is This" UMH #219 vs 1,2

**Reader 4: Luke 2: 15-20**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** "Sweet Little Jesus Boy" by Robert MacGimsey  
Rene Morris

**Sermon**

"Light"

**THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION**

**Great Thanksgiving for Christmas Eve**

**Offertory**

**†Doxology** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" #95

**†Prayer of Dedication**

**Candle Lighting** "Silent Night" UMH#239 vs all

**SENDING FORTH**

**Hymn** "Go Tell It on the Mountain" UMH #251 vs all

**(cont. on back)**

†*Please stand if you are able in your body or spirit.*

***Bold print indicates in unison***

\*Our Christmas offering will be split between Loaves & Fishes /Disaster Relief Fund