### †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.

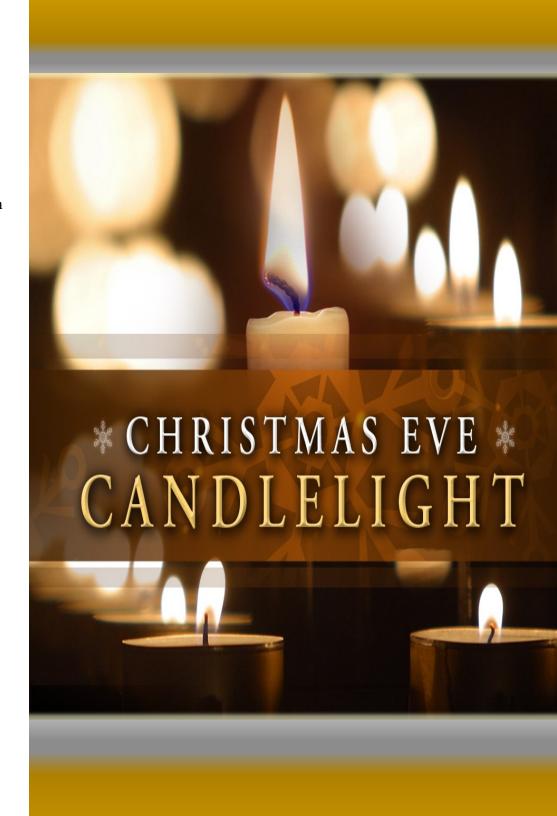
<u>Sunday, January 2</u>: Please plan to stay after the <u>second</u> service (10:50) to help remove the Christmas decorations and carry them to the activity room. On <u>Wednesday, January 5th at 1:00</u>, we will box up and put away all the beautiful Christmas decorations. We hope that lots of helpers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



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

## **ENTRANCE**

Christmas Chorale/arr. Gilbert M. Martin PRELUDE The Christmas Rose 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

Loving God, we thank you for your Son Jesus, who shows up once ALL: 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