

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Christmas Eve Worship

December 24, 2011

CELEBRATING THE COMING OF HIM WHO IS EMMANUEL -- GOD WITH US!

*Indicates those who find it comfortable may stand

**Please place all pagers and cell phones in the 'silent alert' mode before worship begins

A warm and joyous welcome to all who have joined us for worship on this joyous Christmas Eve! Prior to the prelude, please greet those around you in the joy and peace of this Holy Night! When the prelude begins, please quiet your voices that we might prepare our hearts and minds for the coming anew of Him who is the Son of God, our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ!

During the service, please place your candle in the book rack or on the pew beside you!
Please DO NOT handle the candles during the service as they will soften and bend out of shape!
Thank you!

SOUNDING OF THE CHIMES

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

GREETING AND WELCOMING

Leader: Good Evening! Welcome to the House of the Lord!
Our time of Advent waiting is over! The night of Christmas has arrived!
We have come together on this most holy of holy nights to worship Him who is nothing less than Emmanuel – God with us!

People: So come! Let us open our hearts, our minds, our very lives as we prepare to worship Jesus, the Christ Child of Bethlehem!

WORSHIPING THROUGH MUSIC (Organ Prelude) *"The Quiet Carol"* -setting: Hall Maclin
Thomas Boone, Organist

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

PRAYING PRAYERS OF PREPARATION

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 angel, Their great glad tidings tell,
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!

CALLING OURSELVES TO WORSHIP THROUGH WORD

Leader: "Fear not! For behold, I bring you Good News of great joy which shall be for all people! For unto you is born this night, right here in the city of Bellefontaine, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord! Glory to God in the Highest!

People: Glory to God in the highest!

Leader: Glory to God in the highest!

People: And on earth, peace, good will to all!

Leader: So Come! Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass!

**People: And with singing angels, adoring shepherds and wise men come from afar,
let us worship the one who is Emmanuel – God with us!**

*SINGING HYMNS OF ADORATION *"O Come, All Ye Faithful"* (vss. 1 & 2) Number 41
(please sing "evening" in verse 2) Matt Core & Bob Day, Trumpets

*PRAYING FOR THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD

*PRAYING THE LORD'S PRAYER (traditional)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by Thy name!

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors;

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen!

*SINGING IN CELEBRATION *"O Come, All Ye Faithful"* (vs. 3) Number 41

SHARING TOGETHER OUR CHRISTMAS JOY

SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS & CONCERNS

(During the time of greeting, please sign the friendship pads and warmly greet those seated around you, sharing with them the joy of fellowship within the 1st UPC Family of Faith!)

SHARING OF GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

Offertory *"At the Cradle"* -Cesar Franck

*Singing in Thanksgiving *"Gift of Gifts, Your Love Incarnate"* Tune No. 446

Gift of Gifts, Your love in-c-ar-nate, Giv-en Fath-er for u-s all!

In Christ Je-sus, Lord and S-a-v-i-or, You have of-fered gifts d-i-vine!

Grace and m-e-r-c-y, Love and f-a-v-or, Light and peace and hope and joy!

Gifts of lo-ve You show'r u-p-on us Through Chr-ist J-e-s-us Lord o-f all!

*Prayer of Dedication and Rejoicing

SINGING IN ANTICIPATION

"Who Would Imagine a King"

Duet: Brooke Turner & Cindy Jenkins

THE CHRISTMAS STORY IN SCRIPTURE, DRAMA AND SONG

INTRODUCTION TO REMEMBERING

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

John 1:1-5

Hymn # 22

THE SETTING

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Luke 2: 1-5

(Vss. 1, 3 & 4) Number 44

JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

WAITING

"Breath of Heaven" Women's Ensemble: Courtney, Kaitey & Kirsten Chervenak, Lauren Heydinger

THE BIRTH

"When Love Was Born"

Luke 2: 6-7

Duet: Karen Baldwin & Cindy Jenkins

WONDERING AT THE MANGER

"Mary, Did You Know?"

Soloist: Emily Heydinger

THE SHEPHERDS

"Angels, We Have Heard on High"

Luke 2:8-14

Number 23

THE WISE MEN

"We Three Kings"

Matthew 2:1-2

(Vs. 1) Number 66

THE GIFTS
“*We Three Kings*”

Matthew 2:9-11
(Vs. 2-4) Number 66

THE NIGHT WHEN CHRIST WAS BORN “*Silent Night, Holy Night*”

(As the music begins, the light bearers will come forward to light their candles from the Christ candle. They will then take the light of Christ throughout the sanctuary, lighting the candle of the person sitting along the aisles. **PLEASE REMEMBER!!** As the light of Christ is passed from one worshiper to the next, **please** keep the lighted candle **upright** and tip the unlit candle to it! This will prevent hot wax from dripping on your neighbor’s hand! Please keep burning flame away from all clothing, hair, and paper, and avoid allowing the flame to melt the protective plastic cup. **Children under 4th grade are gently requested to use the BATTERY CANDLES to avoid any possible injury or harm from open flame.**

Once all candles are lit, we will begin singing “*Silent Night.*”

“*Silent Night, Holy Night*”

**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.**

**Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly host sing: “Alleluia
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.”**

**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.**

**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.**

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST SHINES FORTH “*Go Light the World*”
Young Ladies Quartet: Abbi & Sophie Adelsberger, Camryn Clark & Caitlyn Shumaker

*CHRIST THE SAVIOR IS BORN!
“*Joy to the World*” Congregational Hymn # 40
(As soon as the lights come on, **please extinguish all candles!** Candles may be placed in the containers at each exit to the sanctuary as you leave tonight! Thank you!)

*GOING FORTH IN JOY (Organ Postlude) “*The Bagpiper’s Carol*” -setting: E.J. Lorenz

IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS THE CHIRST, we offer a warm and joyous Christmas welcome to ALL who have join us for worship on this most holy of holy nights! Our hope and prayer is that ALL who have gathered together in the Spirit of the Lord will experience the love of Christ and the warmth of our Christian fellowship! Please know you are ALWAYS welcome within the 1st UPC Community of Faith! If you are interested in learning more about First United Presbyterian Church or exploring membership within our congregation, please speak with Pastor Rob one of the Elder Greeters following the service. And again, THANK YOU for joining us this evening! Your presence enriches our family of faith as together we ARE the Body of Christ!



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“*Reaching Out to Nurture God’s People
With the Good News of Christ’s Love*”

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