

Lodi United Methodist Church  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

4:00pm, December 24, 2020

Tune your car radio to FM 103.5



**FESTIVAL OF CAROLS AND SCRIPTURE**

**WELCOMING / GATHERING WORDS**

Glory to God in the highest!

**And hope to every discouraged heart.**

Glory to God in the highest!

**And peace to every conflicted soul.**

Glory to God in the highest!

**And joy to every downcast spirit.**

Glory to God in the highest!

**And love to everyone.**

*Let us sing praises to our God.*

**CAROL**            *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*    (Hymn #211, 1&7)

1. **O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.**

*Refrain Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

7. **O come, Desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind.**

**From dues thou brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife.**    *Refrain*

**SCRIPTURE**

Luke 2:1-7

Pastor Peace

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**SOLO**

*O Holy Night*

Leslie Nevens

**SCRIPTURE**

Luke 2:8-14

Nada Zeimet

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “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. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

**CAROL**

*It Came upon the Midnight Clear* (Hymn #218, 1&4)

- 1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.**
- 4. For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold  
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.**



**CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONAL**

*Why Shepherds?*

Pastor Peace

**SOLO**

*Christmas Hallelujah*

Josh Hall

**SCRIPTURE**

Luke 2:15-16

Joe Zeimet

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

**CAROL**

*Away in a Manger* (Hymn #217, 1&2)

*Children are invited to come to the manger*

- 1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

2. **The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;  
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**SCRIPTURE**

Luke 2:17-20

Joe Zeimet

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**CAROL**

*Joy to the World*

Hymn #246

1. **Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.**
2. **Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**
3. **No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.**
4. **He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders, and wonders of his love.**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND OFFERING**

*Your Christmas offerings will help, with its one-third, **Hope House** of South Central Wisconsin to provide support to victims of domestic and sexual violence, and with its one-third, **missionaries of our United Methodist Church** in about 50 countries. The last one-third of your Christmas offerings will fuel the **ministries of our church** to Share the Word of God, Show the Love of Christ, and Spread the Joy of Faith.*

*You may drop off your offering in the box with the offering sign, or donate online at [www.lodiumc.org/give](http://www.lodiumc.org/give)*

*If you are a guest today, please know that above all things your presence is what we are grateful for. You are always welcome here. We hope you feel comfortable to worship with us and trust us enough to make a decision to be part of this community of faith making a difference in the lives of people.*

**Dear God, we praise you with joyful songs!**

**We are glad to celebrate the birth of Jesus. His life is the light of all people.**

**Thank you for opening our eyes to recognize him as our Savior.**

**May our lives and ministries embody Christ's grace and truth so that our neighbors, near and far, will find new life in relationship with you.**

**May our gifts and offerings be used to bring the light of Christ to people who long for your grace. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**



## **LIGHTING OUR CANDLES AND PASSING THE LIGHT**

There is light in our lives because of the abundance of God's love -

A love so vast, so deep, so real, that God came down to be one of us, sharing in all of human life.

May we live within the power of this love.

And may we share its light with one another and with a world where too many dwell in darkness.

### **CAROL**

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

Hymn #239

- 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!**

### **BENEDICTION**

Go forth, bearing the Light of Christ into the world.

The Almighty God bless us with divine grace.

**Today our eyes have seen God's salvation, a light to lighten us and all peoples,  
and His glory, the glory of grace and truth. Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**BENEDICTION RESPONSE** "Angels We Have Heard on High" (Hymnal #238, refrain)

**Glo – ria, in excelsis Deo! Glo – ria, in excelsis Deo!**

### **POSTLUDE**

*Silent Night Holy Night*

an acoustic version, by Josh Hall

*On your way out, please drop your LED candle and Christmas Offering (if you've prepared)  
into the boxes that our usher holds for you.*

***Merry Christmas!  
May the blessings of God's special gifts  
be brought to people through you this Christmas!***