

Lodi United Methodist Church
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

6:00pm, December 24, 2020



GATHERING AROUND THE LIGHT

PRELUDE

Rhea Lind, *piano*. Mitch Richards, *organ*.

WELCOMING / GATHERING WORDS

Pastor Peace Kim

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Come and gather, O People of God!

We gather to celebrate the birth of the one who is the light of the world.

We are here to worship God and give praises to God for the greatest gift Christ Jesus.

This night, the True Light arrives.

This night the Light shines brightest.

We light the candle of hope to remind us of the promises made by all the prophets that God would raise up a savior for His people and through Him bless all the nations. Let the heavens and the earth rejoice.

Our Lord has come. Jesus is our HOPE. (*Light the first candle*)

We light the candle of peace to remind us that the Prince of Peace comes to enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. Let the heavens and the earth rejoice.

Our Lord has come. Jesus is our PEACE. (*Light the second candle*)

We light the candle of joy to remind us that the Lord has made known his salvation and that grace is poured out upon us, his people. Let the heavens and the earth rejoice.

Our Lord has come. Jesus brings us much JOY. (*Light the third pink candle*)

We light the candle of love to remind us that God is love, that God's love was revealed fully through Jesus, and that we ought to love one another as God loves us so much.

Let the heavens and the earth rejoice.

Our Lord has come. Jesus is LOVE. (*Light the fourth candle*)

*** HYMN**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

(Hymn #234, stanzas 1 & 4)

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem. Come and behold him, born the King of angels,

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

4. See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,

leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze; we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps.

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.



TELLING THE CHRISTMAS STORY (Meditation on Luke 2:1-14)

SKIT I

Adult: Andy Hankins *Kid:* Andrew Hankins (in video)
Shepherds: Bri and Kaitlyn Sharkey
Angel: Joan Gehrke

CHORAL RESPONSE “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” (Hymn #240, stanza 1)

1. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

SKIT II

Mary: Laura Nelson *Joseph:* Steve Nelson

SOLO

“Breath of Heaven”

Beanie Ludlum

CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONAL

Born to Us

Pastor Peace



THANKSGIVING FOR THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING

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 one of the plates placed in either front or rear area. Or, you can make a Christmas offering donation at 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.

SPECIAL MUSICAL OFFERING

Rhea Lind, *piano*
Nick Miskimen, *saxophone*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

Holy God, heaven and earth are met this day
in the newborn Child, Savior of the world.

We celebrate his birth;

for in him you come to be close to us, that we might be close to you.

Especially, we give thanks

for the birth, life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and all he means to us...

for prospects of peace in the world... **for confidence in your almighty love...**

for those who generously give... **for those who graciously receive...**

for the Church's nurturing us in the faith...

God of light, as you did at the first Christmas and throughout human history,

break into our darkness and shine light upon our hearts,

especially, on the hearts of those who are sick and ill...

of those who know no laughter, only tears...

of those who have become prisoners of addiction or abuse...

of those who hunger for food, friendship, and shelter...

May we serve as faithful witnesses of your love through our words and actions.

Use our gifts and offerings to bring the light of Christ to people who long for your grace.

We pray in the beautiful name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE

(to the tune of "The First Noel" #245)

Praise God- from whom all- bless-ings flow. Praise God- all crea-tures here- be-low.

Praise God- a-bove, ye- heaven-ly host. Praise Fa-ther, Son- and Ho-ly Ghost.

No-el, No-el, No-el, No-el, born is the King- of Is-ra-el.



LIVING THE LIGHT AND THE GOOD NEWS

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. On those living in the land of deep darkness, light has dawned. You have made the nation great; you have increased their joy." (Isaiah 9:2-3a)

We light the Christ candle to celebrate and rejoice that the light of the world is given today.

(Light the Christ Candle)

With the birth of Jesus, our lives will be forever changed.

(Congregation) We will be transformed by his model and message.

(All Together) Christ is truly the center of our lives.

LIGHTING OUR CANDLES AND PASSING THE LIGHT

SOLO DURING CANDLE LIGHTING

"O Holy Night"

Laura Nelson

HYMN

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

(Hymnal #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

We live in the darkness of fear and doubt; but we have the light of hope and faith.

I will pass on the light.

We live in the darkness of injustice and hatred; but we have the light of peace and justice.

I will pass on the light

We live in the darkness of alienation and loneliness; but we have the light of love and community.

I will pass on the light.

We live in the darkness of greed and indifference; but we have the light of sharing and caring.

I will pass on the light

Christ, the true light of the world, the source of our love and hope, is with you.

Let's LIVE the light! Let's BE the light for the world.

* HYMN

“Joy to the World”

(Hymn #246, stanzas 1 & 4)

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**
4. **He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
the glory of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders, of His love**

* POSTLUDE

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Nick Miskimen. *Saxophone*

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

Our Sunday Worship at 8 & 10AM, livestreamed at [Facebook.com/LodiUMC](https://www.facebook.com/LodiUMC)

Today's introduction skit “A Daughter's Christmas Story” is an adapted version of a script, Copyright Michelle Fogg.