

*May the spirit of  
Christmas bring you peace,  
the gladness of Christmas  
bring you hope,  
the warmth of Christmas  
grant you love.*



*Christmas Eve Service*

December 24, 2019, 6:00pm



Emmetsburg First United Methodist Church

***Welcome!*** *We're glad you're here.*

*When you see the [\*], people are invited to arise as able.*

*Hymns No. 57-734 are in the red hymnal (The United Methodist Hymnal),  
2000's are in the black hymnal (The Faith We Sing).*

## PRELUDE

## BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Rejoice, for God is with us—Emmanuel

**P: In the darkness of our world  
shines God's holy light.**

L: Now there is reason to hope, to love, to laugh, to live.

**P: God is truly with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God!**

### \*OPENING HYMN

234 O Come, All Ye Faithful

### \*OPENING PRAYER

**Gracious God,  
with joy and thanksgiving, we gather as your people.  
We have come to hear again the timeless story of Christ's birth.  
In the excitement of this night, quiet our hearts  
that we may know the peace and fullness of this holy time.  
Shine, O Light, in the darkness of our world.  
Sing, O angels, in the stillness of our hearts,  
"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those God favors."  
This we pray in the name of the Child of Bethlehem. Amen.**

## THE PROPHECY OF THE MESSIAH

The Kogel Family

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

<sup>2</sup>*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.*  
<sup>6</sup>*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON

**Merciful God,  
we confess that often we find darkness more comfortable than light.  
We confess that we find your good news frightening and unsettling,  
especially when we consider its demands as well as its promises.  
We confess that Christmas has become more to us than the birthday of the Christ,  
partly because we do not want a Christ-Child in our lives or in our world.  
Forgive us, break us, bend us, remake us.  
Give us the courage to lay ourselves open  
to the wonder and healing of your coming.  
Be born again into our world, be born again into our hearts and lives.  
Hear now our silent and personal confessions  
as we prepare ourselves for your nativity.  
The true light that enlightens all has come into the world.  
That light shines on in the darkness,  
and the darkness has never been able to put it out.  
This is the good news: God has heard our confession. God has forgiven our sin.  
Thanks be to God!**

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**We are filled with joy for we have heard good news of great joy.  
We are filled with love for we have tasted the sign of God's great love.  
We are filled with hope for the angels still sing in our world  
and there is a Light for us to follow.**

### \*THE PASSING OF THE LIGHT

239 Silent Night, Holy Night

### \*BENEDICTION

### \*SONG OF SENDING FORTH

O Holy Night (*Words on Screen*)



them about this child,<sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

## 245 THE FIRST NOEL, verses 3 & 5 (All Sing)

### THE WISE MEN BRING THEIR GIFTS TO JESUS

The Rouse Family

Matthew 2:1-11

<sup>1</sup>After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup>and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup>When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

<sup>5</sup>“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

<sup>6</sup>“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

<sup>9</sup>After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup>On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

*(The king candles are lighted.)*

“Go Tell it on the Mountain”

Jim Stevens, Solo

### WE OFFER OUR GIFTS TO GOD

#### \*OFFERTORY

#### \*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

219 What Child is This, verses 3(All Sing)

### CHRISTMAS MEDITATION “Less Logic, More Love” Pastor Hojin

*Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

*<sup>7</sup>Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.*

*He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.*

Micah 5:2

*“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me, one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”*

John 1:1-2, 4-5

*<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning.*

*<sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.*

*<sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

#### ALL:

**Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace,  
Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God,  
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God with us, Emmanuel.**

*(The two smaller Angel candles are lighted.)*

“What Child is This”

Esther Shin, Violin

### THE COMING OF JESUS IS ANNOUNCED TO MARY AND JOSEPH

The Curry Family

Luke 1:26-38

*<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,*

*<sup>27</sup>to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary.*

*<sup>28</sup>The angel went to her and said,*

*“Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”*

*<sup>29</sup>Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.*

*<sup>30</sup>But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.*

<sup>31</sup>You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.

<sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”<sup>34</sup>“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”<sup>35</sup>The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

<sup>36</sup>Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup>For no word from God will ever fail.”<sup>38</sup>“I am the Lord's servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

#### Matthew 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup>This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about:

His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

<sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup>But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

*(Gabriel candle and Mary and Joseph candles are lighted.)*

“Make Room”

High School Youth Group

#### THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE BIRTH OF JESUS

The Fay Family

#### Luke 2:1-5

<sup>1</sup>In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup>(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup>And everyone went to their own town to register. <sup>4</sup>So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup>He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

#### 230 O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM (All Sing)

#### JESUS IS BORN

The Frevert Family

#### Luke 2:6-7

<sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup>and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

*(The Baby Jesus candle is lighted.)*

“Happy Birthday”

Senior ladies *(The congregation is asked to join in please.)*

#### JESUS' BIRTH IS ANNOUNCED TO THE SHEPHERDS

The Ward Family

#### Luke 2:9-14

<sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

*(The Shepherd candles are lighted.)*

“Birthday of a King”

Jamie Christensen, Solo

#### THE SHEPHERDS FIND THE BABY JESUS

The Duhn Family

#### Luke 2:15-18

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” <sup>16</sup>So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told