



GLORY TO THE LIGHT
OF THE WORLD!

CHRISTMAS EVE

Lessons and Carols and Holy Communion ~ December 24, 2025

*As we joyfully greet each other today and share the gifts of friendship and love,
you are invited to begin your personal preparation for worship
at the beginning of the gathering music.*

Your Christmas Offering:

Come now and kneel before the Christ child. Bring all that you are and all that you have. Offer your gifts in wonder and surprise and awe. Offer your gifts in joy and delight. There are so many things to be thankful for tonight, God. Receive these tokens of our gratitude for your love incarnate in the babe of Bethlehem. May they become God-with-us for all the world. May they breathe magic back into a world that needs a sense of wonder and joy.

We invite you to place your Christmas Offering in the gold plates located in the back of the Sanctuary.

PRELUDE WELCOME

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Leader: In the darkness, stars shine.

All: In the cold of winter, a warmth rises.

Leader: In the silence, angels approach.

All: In the mystery of this night, your people gather, O God.

Leader: Your Word is made flesh, and we come in humble awe.

All: Your grace unfolds among us, and we come to witness, to worship, and to wonder. Alleluia!

HYMN

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

UMH #221

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

On this night, we light the Christ-candle, a reminder that hope, peace, joy, and love are not merely words for this season of the year, but promises of God that are alive in us for eternity, and that God's steadfast love endures forever.

Light the Christ-candle

Prayer: O come to us, abide in us, our Lord, Emmanuel. God with us, make Your presence known to us, now and always. Shine bright in the shadows and despair, and may the warmth of Your love carry us forward. You changed the world forever that night long ago when You were born, and You are changing our lives, right now. On this Christmas Eve, we pray for Your transformative love to be renewed, for our own hope, peace, joy and love to be restored. We ask for Your guidance in helping each of us live into Your reign on earth as it is in heaven, for Your reign is at hand, and it is coming.

Lead us into ways of participating in Your reign now by doing justice, practicing compassionate love and kindness, and walking humbly with You, our Savior and Redeemer, the Living God, Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN

Star-Child

UMC Wayne Choir

THE ANNUNCIATION *Luke 1:26-38*

AN ANGEL SPEAKS TO JOSEPH IN A DREAM *Matthew 1:18-23*

HYMN

Emmanuel, Emmanuel 2x

UMH #204

THE BIRTH OF JESUS *Luke 2:1-7*

A CHILD IS BORN WHO SHALL HAVE AUTHORITY *Isaiah 9:2, 6-7*

ANTHEM

What Child is This / Child of the Poor

UMC Wayne Choir

JESUS' BIRTH IS ANNOUNCED TO THE SHEPHERDS *Luke 2:8-14*

THE SHEPHERDS GO TO THE MANGER *Luke 2:15 -20*

HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High verses 1-3

UMH #238

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor Ninabeth: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

Pastor Ninabeth: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor Ninabeth: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Creator God, from the beginning ... And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the Highest.

The true light that enlightens everyone was coming into the world. ...

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in unison with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith,

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us ... God of all Creation, may your Word be made flesh by all your holy Church, in the love of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. All honor and glory is yours God, now and forever.

Amen

And Now as the Beloved children of God let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

SPECIAL MUSIC

Christmas Lullaby & Agnus Dei

Cathy Nalesnik

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD John 1:1-5, 9-14, 16, 18

RECEIVING AND SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Christ, the Light of the world, gives each one of us light, so that we too may shine with gratitude, hope, and love. Receive the light that comes to you: it comes from the Christ candle, but it reaches you only through your neighbors. Receive the light from a brother or sister in Christ. Hold the light, enjoy the light, and be thankful.

SILENT 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 hosts 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."**

BENEDICTION

May the light that enlivens all the world, the light that darkness cannot overcome, love's pure light in Jesus Christ, shine on you and in our world this night.

POSTLUDE

We are grateful to our guest musicians and vocalists:

Eddie Easse

Cathy Nalesnik

UMC Wayne Choir

Tonight's Christmas poinsettias are given to the glory of God!

In Honor of our girls Sydney and Rayna

Erika and Sam Barnes – 1

In Honor of our grandsons, Sean & Aidan

**In Memory of our parents Paul & Dottie Atherton
and Jim & Dot Creamer**

Don & Marilyn Creamer – 4

In Honor of John DeVos

Dianne DeVos – 1

In Memory of our Granny – Evelyn Stephens

In Memory of Aunt Nancy Wagner

The Flores Family ~ 2

In memory of Mom & Dad

Jan Fredericks – 1

In Memory of David Ingerman, Charles Mougalian, Our Parents

Lois Mougalian ~ 3

In Memory of Charles Mougalian beloved father, father-in-law, and Bapa

In Memory of David B. Ingerman, beloved husband and father

Lori, Alex & Dylan Ingerman – 2

In Memory of Ralph & Millie Jackson

In Memory of Jane & Wayne Shortman

Richard T Jackson – 2

In Memory of Loved Ones

Robert & Nancy Kinch – 2

In Memory of Judy Kloo

Chuck Kloo – 1

In Honor of our grandchildren, Jakob, Sadie, and Ari

Mike & Linda Lakner – 3

In Honor of Juan Martinez

In Memory of Oscar Luna

Victoria Luna ~ 2

In Memory of Don Matthews

The Matthew and Barnes families – 1

In Memory of Loved Ones

Janet Melone – 2

In Memory of our parents; Phil & LaRae Gantt and Bill & Marie Metcalf
The Metcalf Family – 2

In Memory of Mackensie Rae Jennings
Dawn & Bruce Monroe - 1

In Memory of John & Alice Buschner and Harry & Dorothy Nalesnik
Cathy Nalesnik ~ 2

In Memory of Santos and Dorothea Penin and Gladys Jacobus
Linda M. Penin – 2

In Memory of Friends, Family, and God's Love
Jenn Schiffrin – 4

In Memory of Natalie & Frank Sentkowski
Lyn Sentkowski ~ 2

In Memory of loved friends and family
Liz Slevin ~ 2

In Memory of Loved Ones
The Sutton Family ~ 1

**In Memory of Jane Fikslin and Joe & Liz's Parents:
Ray & Elinor Fikslin and Joe & Shirley Tible**
Liz & Joe Tible ~ 1

***Thank you for financially supporting our ministry.
We offer many ways to give:***

In the sanctuary or by mail.

Online at www.umcwayne.org

<https://giving.ncsservices.org/app/giving/umcwgiving>

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***Lord God, in the deepest of night
there rises the star of morning, of birth,
the herald of a new day you are making,
a day of great joy dawning in yet faint shafts of light and love.***

***I hear the whispers of peace
in the stillness, fresh breezes of promise stirring,
winter sparrows chirping of life,
a baby's cry of need and hope – Christmas!***

***In the darkness I see the light
and find in it comfort, confidence, cause for celebration,
for the darkness cannot overcome it,
and I rejoice to nourish it in myself and in other people,
in the world for the sake of him in whom it was born and shines forever,
even Jesus the Christ.***

~ Ted Loder

UMC Wayne Ministers are All the members of UMC in Wayne

Pastor Ninabeth Metcalf

Peter Candela – Music Director

Marilyn Creamer – Handbell Director

Office Email: office@umcwayne.org