

2019 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

PRELUDE	WELCOME	GREETING	PRAYER
SPECIAL MUSIC		“O Holy Night”	Anthon Choir
*CALL TO WORSHIP			
Leader: A child has been born to us.			
People: Glory to God in the highest heaven!			
Leader: A savior has been given to us.			
People: Glory to God in the highest heaven!			
Leader: Salvation has come to all the earth.			
People: Glory to God in the highest heaven! Amen.			
*HYMN		“Joy to the World”	UMH# 246
ADVENT SKIT & READING		Advent Song (all verses)	TFWS# 2090
SPECIAL MUSIC		“Please Come Home for Christmas”	Beau Wolfe
SCRIPTURES		Isaiah 9:2-7	Isaiah 52:7-10
*HYMN		“Away in a Manger”	UMH# 217
SCRIPTURES		Psalm 96	Titus 2:11-14
*HYMN		“What Child is This”	UMH# 219
*GOSPEL			Luke 2:1-20
SPECIAL MUSIC		“Mary Did You Know”	Beau Wolfe
MESSAGE		“The Lord is Come: Incarnate Joy”	Pastor Jena
SPECIAL MUSIC		“Hallelujah”	Beau Wolfe
SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE			See insert
SHARING THE LIGHT		“Silent Night”	UMH# 239
*BENEDICTION			POSTLUDE

2019 Advent Reading...

Leader: Holy God, we give you thanks that you became Joy-Made-Flesh in Jesus.

People: The Lord has come to our hearts this day.

Leader: You came so that your hope, love, joy and peace could be multiplied in all of heaven and earth.

People: The Lord has come to our church this day.

Leader: Help us to remember that this is our true nature and that simply being the humans God has created us to be-including our moments of struggle and sadness-is what you want us to do fully.

People: The Lord has come to the world this day! Amen.

Leader: Tonight, we light all of the candles in the advent wreath. The first Candle is called HOPE and it's a reminder that God's promises are true. The second candle is called LOVE, because of God's great gift of love for us. The third Candle is called JOY, because of God's unabashed joy in our lives. The fourth Candle is called PEACE, as a reminder of God's gentle loving peace for our lives. The center candle is the Christ candle. Let Christ be the center of your life each and every day.

People: We seek God's HOPE, LOVE, JOY, and PEACE. We seek Jesus today and every day.

Light three purple candles, the pink one and the Christ candle in the center if not already done.

Leader: Christ came to us as a baby and he is coming back!

People: Help us to celebrate the birth of Christ as we await his return. Let us spread Joy to the World.

Let's join in singing all five verses of hymn number 2090, The Advent Song found in The Faith We Sing hymnal.

SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE – Holy Communion

We believe Communion is a means of God's grace and welcome all persons at the Lord's Table to receive Holy Communion. There is a gluten free option available.

If you are not able to receive the elements, please come for a blessing.

God is with us, with us now. **We lift our hearts with gratitude.**
It's right to give God thanks and praise. **We lift our hearts with gratitude.**
And Joy? **Incarnate Joy!**

Holy Living God, creator of all heaven and nature, in the same way you came in the first loud cry of a baby in a stable, your breath filled us on the day we were born. You inhabit our very being, and even when we turn away, you are there, part of us, breath by breath, heartbeat by heartbeat. You have drawn us to your love time and again, reminding us that we were made for joy.

In this moment we remember all those who have gone before us, who now join us at this table in a melding of all time and space. I invite you to lift up first names, wherever you are, of those people and places you wish to draw into this moment...

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

We sing. **We sing.** Joy to the World, let Heaven and nature sing. **Joy to the World, let Heaven and nature sing.** With joy? **Incarnate joy!**

Holy are you and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people.

In the midst of healing, feeding and teaching, he brought a spark of something so special that people would tell his story over and over until it got to us. He promised that this spark, this light, this joy, would be with us always.

We remember this night that Jesus' birth was the beginning of a world-altering story. How could Mary and Joseph have known that the babe that learned to eat just like the rest of us would someday sit at tables and show us all how to eat of the banquet that really matters—the banquet of love and grace, life and love?

Just as this babe cried for his first sustaining milk, on a night thirty-three years later, he reached for the bread and cup on the table of his last meal, and reminded his disciples—and now us—that we must cry out for justice and joy for all living things.

He gave thanks to you, Holy God, broke the bread, and told them, “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” And then when the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Drink from this, all of you; this is my love, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, with joy we offer ourselves in service, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, yet Christ still lives. **Christ will come again!**
In joy? **Incarnate Joy!**

Like the heaven’s light from above on that night, pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, O God, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the coming of newly born hope, love, joy and peace so that we may be for the world these things, strengthened by your presence within us.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

We sing. **We sing.** Joy to the World, let Heaven and nature sing. **Joy to the World, let Heaven and nature sing.** With joy? **Incarnate joy!** Let us join in the prayer Jesus taught his disciples ...

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.

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.** The blood of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**