

CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2024 – 11:00PM

*"Candlelight Service"*



\*Please stand, if able

**GATHERING**

**Prelude** Please use the time during the prelude for personal prayer and meditation in silence, preparing for worship.

**Christmas Greeting and Proclamation**

**Pastor:** On this divine and holy night, we gather with our hearts full of hope and anticipation as the bells ring out throughout the world, announcing the birth of a Savior. Listen! Hear the bells ring, announcing that "unto us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on his shoulder. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace."

**The Bells Ring Out**

**Leader:** Tonight is the night to travel around a manger to see the face of God in a tiny little baby. Let us share our joy and excitement at being present when God reaches down to touch the earth. May your hearts be one as we come to worship the Christ Child on this most holy night.

**\*Proclamational Hymn** "O, Come, All Ye Faithful"  
vs. 1 & 3 UMH No. 234

**Call to Worship**

**Pastor:** In the silence of this night,

**People:** may we hear the songs of the angels.

**Leader:** In the holiness of this night,

**People:** may we humble ourselves to visit the manger.

**Pastor:** In the serenity of this night.

**People:** may we spread peace through the world.

**Leader:** In the brightness of this night,

**People:** may we see the One who comes to us.

**Opening Prayer** (In Unison)

God of us all, we come as your faithful to Bethlehem on this silent night. We come to gather around the manger and see for ourselves this wondrous thing of which we have heard. We come to worship the baby, born to be king. Make us worthy to receive your gift of grace, O God. And let us go from this place a people renewed in our faith, to give your gift of love and peace to each person we meet, as it was given to us so long ago. Amen.

**Special Music** "O Holy Night" Kenny Shadle

**Lighting of the Candle**

**Hymn** "Light the Advent Candle" vs 5 TFWS No. 2090

**Scripture Lesson** Isaiah 9:2b-4, 6-7

**Hymn** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" UMH No. 230

**Receiving of Tithes and Offerings**

Offering

\*"Doxology"

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving

UMH No. 95

**Hymn** "Away in a Manger" UMH No. 217

**\*Scripture Lesson** Luke 2:1-20

**Special Music** "Heirlooms" Kristi Peterson

**Sermon** "A Messy Christmas"

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Lord's Prayer**

### **\*Candle Lighting**

As the congregation stands, the ushers will bring the light from the Christ candle to the congregation. Keep the lighted candle straight; tip your unlighted candle to the lighted candle of your neighbor. During the last verse, we will extinguish our candles, and carry their light into the world within our hearts.

**\*Hymn**            "Silent Night, Holy Night"            UMH No. 239

**\*Pray for Light**    (In Unison)

**Lord Christ, you came into our world to meet us where we live. As we hold our candles, make your bright light shine upon us in the darkened corners where we wait for your arrival. Dispel gloom and anger, fear and hatred, that your pure radiance may become the beacon burning in our hearts, illuminating those about us. Thank you for the gift of your Son, the gift of pure love and grace. Lord, make us yours forever. In your name, we pray. Amen.**

(Please extinguish your candle by blowing it gently. Be sure to hold it upright until the wax hardens. Thank you!)

### **Benediction**

**Pastor:**    A child has been born for us.

**People:**    **God's grace has been given to us.**

**Pastor:**    From a stable in Bethlehem, our savior has come. We have seen the glory of the Lord

**People:**    **revealed in the face of the Christ child.  
We can hardly contain our amazement.**

**Pastor:**    Tell the world. Treasure the story.  
Ponder it in your heart.

**People:**    **We will glorify and praise God  
for all we have heard and seen!**

**Pastor:**    Rejoice! Rejoice! Christ has come!

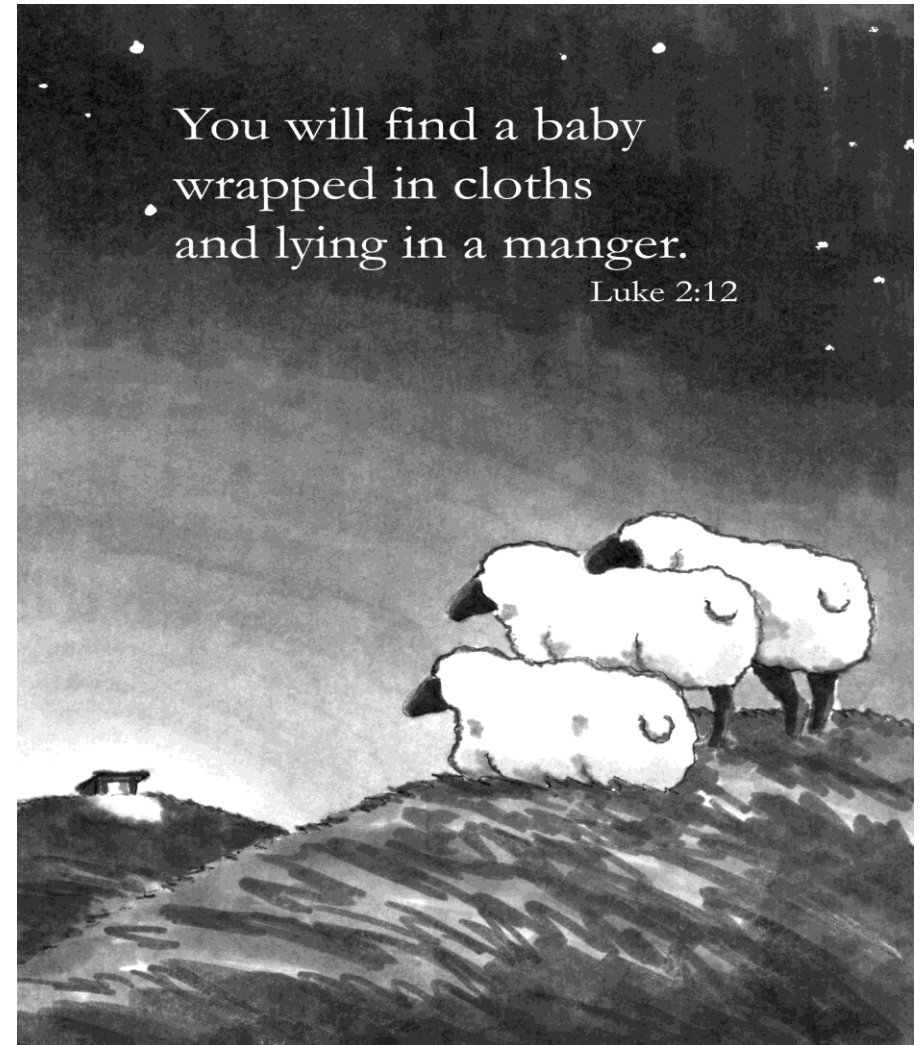
**People:**    **Amen!**

**\*Choral Benediction** "Joy to the World"

vs 1, 4            UMH No. 246

**\*Postlude**

*Calvary United Methodist Church  
519 Pottsville Street, Wiconisco  
December 24, 2024  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*



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