

Christmas Candlelight Service
Alexander Chapel United Methodist Church
December 21, 2025 – 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

O Holy Night

Prelude – Steve Hawkins

Call to Worship

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light!

People: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

Leader: For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given.

People: His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Leader: Let us worship the One who is Light and Life, born among us this night.

All: Glory to God in the highest!

Opening Hymn (Congregation) Steve Hawkins

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" – UMH #234 (Verses 1,2,3)

Opening Prayer

Gracious and Eternal God, on this holy night, we gather by candlelight to remember Your coming among us — not in power or grandeur, but in tenderness and love. As we hear again the story of Jesus' birth, fill our hearts with wonder and our lives with light. Let this time of worship draw us close to You and to one another, through Christ our Lord, the Light of the World.

Amen.

Isaiah 9:2–7

The Prophecy of the Messiah – Read by Phillip Gibson

O Little Town of Bethlehem – UMH #230 (Verses 1, 2, 4)

Congregational Carol - Piano, Steve Hawkins

Luke 2:1–7

The Birth of Jesus – Read by Reverend Julia Gibson

What Child Is This?

Singing by Anastasia and Victoria Pasechnik

Luke 2:8–14

The Angels and the Shepherds – Read by Phillip Gibson

Angels We Have Heard on High – UMH #238 (Verses 1, 2, 3)

Congregational Carol - Piano, Steve Hawkins

Luke 2:15–20

The Shepherds Visit – Read by Reverend Julia Gibson

Away in a Manger – UMH #217 (Verses 1–3)

Congregational Carol - Piano, Steve Hawkins

The Light Shines in the Darkness

Phillip Gibson

Celebration of Holy Communion

Reverend Julia Gibson

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Anastasia and Victoria Pasechnik

John 1:1–5, 9–14

Scripture of Light and Sending – Read by Reverend Julia Gibson

Joy to the World – UMH #246 (Verses 1–3)

Closing Hymn (Congregation) - Piano, Steve Hawkins

Benediction

Go now into the night carrying the light of Christ within you.

May the joy of the angels, the wonder of the shepherds,

and the peace of the Christ Child fill your hearts this Christmas and always.

All: Amen.

Silent Night, Holy Night – UMH #239

Congregational Carol - Steve Hawkins

Please share the candle light with your neighbor.

Please exit quietly.

As you exit, please extinguish your candles and place them in the containers at the entrance.