



THE BIRTH OF *Christ*

AND SHE BROUGHT FORTH HER FIRSTBORN SON,
AND WRAPPED HIM IN SWADDLING CLOTHS, AND LAID HIM IN A MANGER,
BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THEM IN THE INN.

LUKE 2:7

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CHRISTMAS EVE

PRE-GATHERING MUSIC

5:00pm, see insert

December 24, 2025

5:30pm

PRELUDE

"The Journey to Bethlehem"

C. Franck

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Krissi Kahoun & Jeff Knapp

READER 1: For weeks, we have waited. We have watched. We have prayed. We have prepared our hearts for the coming of Christ. Tonight, the waiting ends. We light the Candle of Hope, remembering God's promise to come near when the world felt weary and worn. (Light the first candle.)

READER 2: We light the Candle of Peace, trusting that God brings calm and courage even in uncertain and fragile moments. (Light the second candle.)

READER 1: We light the Candle of Joy, a joy that rose from deep within, a joy strong enough to carry us through real life. (Light the third candle.)

READER 2: We light the Candle of Love, celebrating a love that made room, a love that chose nearness, a love that would not let the world go (Light the fourth candle.)

BOTH READERS: We light the Christ Candle. (Light the Christ Candle.)

ALL: *The Light has come into the world. The Word has become flesh and dwelt among us. Hope is fulfilled. Peace is born. Joy is complete. Love has come near.*

BOTH READERS: This is the light no darkness can overcome. This is the light of Christ.

ALL: *Thanks be to God. Amen.*

*CAROL

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

UMH 234, vs. 1-4

FIRST LESSON

Dan Newman

Isaiah 9:2-7

One of the greatest prophets spoke truth to the people of God about a son being born, a baby boy born to be the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. The prophet Isaiah gave this word to a people who were living in darkness and isolation. This was a word to give the chosen people of God a light out of darkness and a hope for a world to come. The

prophets words came clear, as clear as the sky and the stars at midnight. God promises to Abraham that by his descendants all the nations of the earth will obtain blessings.

CAROL *"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"* UMH 218

SECOND LESSON Krissi Kahoun Psalm 96:1-6

The birth of our savior gives blessings and a future of a new heaven and a new earth. Our Saviors glory is declared all over the land. We are to tell the good news on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere!

CAROL *"Go, Tell It On the Mountain"* UMH 251

THIRD LESSON Samantha Skutnik Matthew 1:18-25

A betrothed teen girl pregnant by the Holy Spirit? How can that be? This could have meant death to Mary. Joseph was prepared to dismiss Mary quietly and quickly in order not to bring her harm. And then an angel said "Do not be afraid! Mary is carrying the Son of God whom you shall name Emmanuel, God With Us. Mary, did you know the savior of the world is lying safely in your womb and you will be called blessed?"

SPECIAL MUSIC *"Mary, Did You Know?"* Lowry/Greene
Soloist: Robbie Owen Piano: Susan Shick

FOURTH LESSON Krissi Kahoun Matthew 2:1-12

Three wise men listened and discerned the way to the Christ child. They followed the star and when the star stopped, they were overwhelmed because they knew the child, promised by the prophets was born. The three wise men found the place of the baby Jesus.

ANTHEM *"Born' Neath a Star* C. Gray
with We Three Kings of Orient Are"

OFFERING (USHERS PLEASE COME FORWARD)
Offertory *"Love Came Down at Christmas"* M. Hill
***Doxology** UMH 95
Offering Prayer

FIFTH LESSON Dan Newman Luke 2:18-20

The shepherds, too, were told by the angels about the birth of the Christ child. They too were told "Do not be afraid!". They were the lowliest, why would an angel visit them? The Good News of the Christ Child is not just for the select few, but for all! The child born tonight has come to save all humanity.

***CAROL** *"Silent Night, Holy Night"* UMH 239,
see screens

SIXTH LESSON Pastor Tennille Power Psalm 98: 4-9

Tonight, we come to the final song of Christmas Eve. A song not written for a quiet stable, but for a world waiting to be made new. Joy to the World, the Lord is come. This joy is not polite. It is not fragile. It is not reserved for those who have everything together. It is a joy that brings light into darkness. We are singing about a promised world where love comes near, where justice is taking root, where sorrow does not have the final word So let every heart prepare Him room. Let every voice sing. Let the world receive its King.

***CAROL** “Joy to the World” UMH 246

POSTLUDE “Magnificat” J.F. D’Andrieu

*Please stand as you are able

SERVING THE LORD AT ROCKPORT

Pastor	Tennille Power
Lay Leader	Dan Newman
Music Director/Organist	Susan Shick
Church Office Administrator/Bookkeeper	Sara Chapman
Sound/Video	Scott Holchin
Lector	Krissi Kahoun
Ushers	Eileen Seppelt, Beverly Cavanah, Kirk & Kathy Sullenberger

Thursday, Dec. 25, 2025 – Friday, January 2, 2026 – CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Friday, Dec. 26, 2025

9:45am – Al-Anon

Saturday, Dec. 27, 2025

10:00am – A.A

Sunday, Dec. 28, 2025

8:30-9:00am – Early Morning Service; Communion

9:30am –Worship & Live Streamed

2-3:30pm – A.A. Book Club