

WEST CHELMSFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Christmas Eve
Worship Service In-person and via Zoom
December 24, 2025
8:00 PM

Prelude – Brass Quintet

Greeting

May Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, be with you all!

And also with you!

Opening Carol* – “Joy to the World”

Call to Worship*

What kind of hope can endure this world?

The hope and fears of all the years are met right here tonight?

How can we speak peace when the world is at war?

Tonight, there will be heavenly peace and mercy mild; God and sinners, reconciled.

Where is the joy of celebration when so many are hungry and hurting?

All heaven and nature sing; the weary world rejoices.

When will love come and save us?

The wonders of God’s love are made flesh tonight. The angels sing “Gloria,” and we have nothing to fear.

Choral Introit – “Fanfare Gloria” Eliot

Opening Prayer

God of love, choirs of angels sang to your glory on the night of Jesus’ birth. Open our mouths to sing your praise, that we might join the heavenly chorus. As the shepherds left their sheep in the fields may we leave our cares behind, that we too may find the love of Jesus. Let us share signs of this love and peace with one another as beloved children of God. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath and Christ Candle

Archangelo and Duggan Families

Response - “Christ, Be Our Light!” (see insert) Farrell/arr. Raney

Unison Prayer

Dear God, we are often afraid. We pray for angels to deliver and comfort us. We long to hear spoken again those words of assurance, your messenger’s commandment, “do not be afraid”. Empower us, by your grace, to live as those who long for our saving love. Amen.

The Story of Jesus’ Birth

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:6-7

Scene 1

Carol – “Away in a Manger” (vs. 1 & 2)

Scripture Reading: Luke 2: 1-5

Scene 2

Carol – “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (vs. 1 & 2)

Handbell Offering – “What Child is This” arr. Austin

Scripture Reading: Luke 2: 6-7

Scene 3

Carol – “O Come All Ye Faithful” (vs. 1-4)

Scene 4

Carol – “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Scripture Reading: Luke 2: 8-16

Scene 5

Anthem – “Run to Bethlehem” Raney

Scripture Reading: Luke 2: 17-20

Christmas Message

Offertory Reflection

Offertory – “Sing to the Child” Scott

Doxology*

Prayer of Dedication*

Gracious God, in this season of giving, we bring our gifts to you, knowing we can never repay the gift of your Son. Send them into a world still wrapped in darkness, so that your light and love may shine. Through them, may fear give way to courage and hearts be filled with the peace of the newborn King, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Christmas Meditation - Good News of Christmas

SERVICE OF CANDLE LIGHTING

As “Silent Night” is being sung, the light will be passed from the Christ Candle. Remember that the lighted candle remains upright and the unlighted candle is tipped to be lighted.

Carol – “Silent Night”

Sharing the Peace of Christmas

Benediction

Let us go forth to share the joy of Christmas with the world.

And God's people say: **Amen.**

Benediction Response - "Christmas Peace"

R. Blank

Postlude – Brass Quintet



We greet you on this Holy Night as we gather to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. If you are a visitor, please come back and worship with us again. The grace and peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

UMH refers to The United Methodist Hymnal (blue book)

FWS refers to The Faith We Sing (black book)

WS refers to Worship and Song (green book)

Tonight – Senior Choir and Festival Ringers

Brass Quintet – Trumpet – John Leonard, Will Choe

Trombone – Scott Pemrick, Mark Turcotte

Tuba – Alex Hovey

Acolytes – Geila and Anisha Machuca

Lay Reader – Deb Allen

Minister of Music – Karen Leonard

Pastor – Reverend Geisa Matos