

Seventh Lesson – Luke 2:8-16 (Pew Bible NT Page 58) Sarah Beasley
The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world and find him lying in a manger.

Eighth Lesson – Matthew 2:1-11 (Pew Bible NT Page 2) Sarah Beasley
The wise men follow a star to find the child Jesus, the King of the Jews.

Carol: *We Three Kings* (UMH 254)

Ninth Lesson – John 1:1-14 (Pew Bible NT Pages 91-92) Michael Jones
John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

Carol: *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* (UMH 251)

HOLY COMMUNION
Service Of Word and Table II (UHM 12)

*Lighting of the Christ Candle Richard & Joyce Moeller

Our time of waiting is over. Christmas is here. The circle of Advent candles is lit. On this Holy Night, we light the Christ Candle, reminding us that Christ, the light of the world, is the center of our lives – the shining beacon of hope for all the universe. In him our lives are centered and focused, and so we are turned toward God. We light this candle and all of our candles because Christ is the Light of the World! He is born! Praise God!

*Passing the Light

The Christ Candle is lit, and the pastor will light his candle from the Christ Candle and pass the light to the congregation.

As the candles are being lit, we will sing together *“Silent Night, Holy Night”* (UMH 239)

Dismissal With Blessing

Postlude: *Musical Selection - Joy to the World* (UMH 246)



*A Christmas Eve Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
With Holy Communion*

CONCORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 24, 2024
11:00 PM

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*Candlelight Service:
A Christmas Eve Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
with Holy Communion*

Gathering
Prelude: *Musical Selection - What Child is This (UMH 219)*

Welcome Elizabeth Muldoon

*The Bidding Prayer

Beloved in Christ, this Christmas Eve it is our duty and delight
to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels,
and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem,
and see this thing which is come to pass,
and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore let us hear again from Holy Scripture
the story of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our sin
until the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child;
and let us make this house of prayer glad with our carols of praise.

But first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus' heart,
let us pray to him for the needs of the whole world, and all his people:
for peace upon the earth he came to save;
for love and unity within the one Church he did build;
for goodwill among all peoples.

And particularly at this time let us remember
the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed;
the sick and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved;
the aged and the little children;
and all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not,
or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly let us remember all those who rejoice with us.
but upon another shore and in a greater light,

*Please stand as you are able.

that multitude which no one can number,
whose hope was in the Word made flesh,
and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to
the throne of heaven, in the words that Christ himself has taught us.

*The Lord's Prayer (UMH 895)

First Lesson – Genesis 3:8-19 Kathy Fredeking
(Pew Bible OT Page 3)
God announced in the Garden of Eden Adam and Eve's punishment for their
rebellion and that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

Second Lesson – Genesis 22: 15-18 (Pew Bible OT Page 18) Kathy Fredeking
God promised to Abraham that by his descendants that all the nations of the earth
will obtain blessings.

Carol: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (UMH 196)

Third Lesson – Isaiah 9:2, 6 and 7 (Pew Bible OT Page 638) Matthew Thomas
The prophet announces the birth of a king to a people in darkness.

Fourth Lesson – Micah 5:2-5 (Pew Bible OT Page 865) Matthew Thomas
The king is coming and will usher in a reign of justice for the poor and peace for all
God's creation.

Carol: O Little Town of Bethlehem (UMH 230)

Fifth Lesson – Luke 1:26-35 and 38 (Pew Bible NT Pages 56-57) Jerry Beasley
The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary that she will give birth to God's
promised Son, whose kingdom will never end.

Sixth Lesson – Luke 2:1-7 (Pew Bible NT Page 58) Jerry Beasley
Against a backdrop of emperors and taxes, Jesus is born.

Carol: The First Noel (UMH 245) v. 1,2

*Please stand as you are able.