

Passing the Light of Christ

Carol of Christ's Birth "Silent Night, Holy Night" Hymn #199

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia! Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light. Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace. Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth; Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night, Wondrous star, lend thy light. With the angels, let us sing, Alleluia to our King. Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

"Joy to the World" (Acapella)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Go in the Light & Love of Christ!

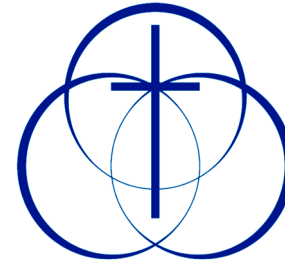
Merry Christmas

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING FOR EMBRACE AL/FL KIDS

Our Christmas Eve offering is being received for "Embrace AL/FL Kids" Ministry. Please write checks to Lillian Methodist Church and on your memo write "Embrace AL/FL Kids".

THERE WILL BE ONE MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

New Year's Eve December 31 at 9:00 AM



LILLIAN METHODIST CHURCH

REACHING OUT WITH GOD'S LOVE

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Candlelight Communion

WELCOME TO THE CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE

Thank you for joining us tonight as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ the Savior of the World, who came to rescue us from the darkness of our sin. We pray you know the Hope, Peace, Joy, Love and Salvation that is found in a relationship with Jesus Christ. May His love and light guide you and direct your paths.

December 24, 2023 4:00 PM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion

The Prelude

Carol Gaines

*The Invocation

Pastor and People

Father, our hearts are quiet and our feelings reverent as we await the coming of our Savior. May the birth of Christ in our hearts make a difference in our values and priorities; in our conduct, speech, and relationships. May our lives become holier because Jesus was born, lived, died and rose. For we ask in His name. Amen.

*Opening Carol

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Hymn #174

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem. Come and behold Him, born the King of Angels; O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

*A Christmas Affirmation of Faith

Pastor and People

We believe that Christmas is a spirit, and they that find it must seek it in spirit and in truth. We believe that it is not a season of the year, but a way to live. It comes whenever wise men and shepherds bow down to worship at the same shrine; whenever charity displaces intolerance; whenever old enemies forgive one another; whenever kindness takes the place of ill will. We believe in the Christ of Christmas as the way to life for all persons and all nations. We believe that peace on earth and good will among all can become living realities in this generation. Amen.

Prophet Announces the Birth of a King

Isaiah 9:2-7

Carol of Anticipation

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Hymn #162

O come, O come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

He Will Usher in Justice and Bring Peace

Micah 5:2-5

Carol of Proclamation “Angels We Have Heard on High” Hymn #191

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains. Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gabriel Tells Mary that She Will Give Birth to Our Savior Luke 1:26-38

Carol of Hope

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Hymn #192

O Little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie; above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Jesus Christ is Born

Luke 2:1-16

Carol of the Manger

“Away in a Manger”

Hymn #197

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where He lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, the little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes; I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay, close by me forever, and love me, I pray; bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Lighting the Christ Candle Congregational Prayer

Eternal God, by the birth of Jesus you gave yourself to the world. Grant that, being born in our hearts, He may save us from our sins, and restore within us the image and likeness of our Creator, to whom be everlasting praise and glory, world without end. Amen.

Special Music

Carol & David Gaines

The Word Became Flesh

John 1:1-14

Celebration of Holy Communion

Lord, we greet You this happy night, for You have been at work in our world throughout all time. In the fullness of time you sent your Son Jesus, Emmanuel, born the King of Angels, Your Word in flesh appearing. He was one of us and lived with us, giving up all His glory for our sake to make us whole. And yet you raised Him up again to overcome the power of death and live a new life. Still, we wait for the day when we too will share the fullness of life in Him and with him. As we celebrate Holy Communion tonight, we pray that You would show us Your presence in this bread and this cup. By the power of Your Holy Spirit, unite us with Christ and all who share this feast, just as You send us out to be His presence in and for Your world. Give us courage to be Your people, to show Your justice, grace, mercy, peace and love, that we may be a part of Your transformation of our world until the day when the baby whose birth we celebrate tonight comes again in peace, and we sing Your praise and glory forever. Amen.