

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
OF COMMUNION AND CANDLELIGHT**
First United Methodist Church
December 24, 2018, 7:00 PM

The GatheringRev. Mike Brown
Prelude. Hark! the Herald Angels Singarr. Faye López
Bringing in the Light of Christ Goldie Gossett, Acolyte

***A Christmas Eve Litany**

Leader: The worlds were yet unborn,
People: **The stars did not yet shine,**
Leader: When the Dream began.
People: **God's Dream of Love,**
Leader: God's Vision of Hope,
People: **Was and Is and Will be.**
Leader: When the Dream began,
People: **Light entered in,**
Leader: And Salvation was born.
People: **Alleluia!**

*Hymn No. 234“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

***Prayer for Illumination**

**Lord, open our minds and hearts by the power of your Holy Spirit, that we may hear
and rejoice in the gospel of our Savior's birth, told in story and song this night. Amen.**

Lighting of the Christ Candle Paul and Ginger Johnson and Family

The First Lesson Isaiah 9:2-7 Owen Earnest
*Hymn No. 220. “Angels from the Realms of Glory”

The Second Lesson. Titus 2:11-14 Ellie Bridges
Musical Offering. “O Holy Night” Adolphe Adam
Piper Loeffler, soprano soloist

The Gospel Lesson. John 1:1-18 Linda Lott
Musical Offering “Sweet Little Jesus Boy” Robert Mac Gimsey
Allyson Whittaker, soprano soloist

The Offering
Offertory Prayer Rev. Brown
Offertory. “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” arr. Faye López
Sheila Lane, piano

Christmas Homily Rev. Mike Brown
“The Church at Christmas: Enlightened and Alive”

*Hymn No. 240. “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

The Sacrament of Holy Communion:

Invitation, Confession, and Pardon UMH 12

The Great Thanksgiving UMH 15-16

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Bread and the Cup. Communion Servers: The Brent Loeffler Family

Prayer after Communion

We give you thanks, most gracious God, for allowing us to share in this feast as your family and to be fed with the bread of heaven. Send us out into the world rejoicing, ready to share your love with the people we meet, through the peace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Lighting of Candles

*Candlelight Hymn "Silent Night, Holy Night" (sts. 1, 2, 4)

**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! 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!**

*Dismissal with Blessing

**Please stand as you are able.*

