

Christmas Eve Service
Fort Des Moines United Methodist Church
Sunday, December 24, 2017
7:00 p.m.

** Please stand as you are able*

The Prelude “Carol Fantasies” arr. John Ness Beck & Dennis Alexander

The Introit TFWS #2070 “*He is Exalted*”

The Adoration

Leader: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulders, and his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, and Prince of Peace.

People: **Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace and good will toward all.**

The Hymn of Adoration UMH #234 “*O Come, All Ye Faithful*”

The Christmas Prayer

O God, who blessed our earth with a vision of your love in the form of a little child: once more gladden us with the light that shone around the hills of Bethlehem. Graciously grant a true Christmas blessing as we worship. Fill our hearts with gratitude and lead us into the Christmas peace, which passes all understanding, the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Child Of Prophecy

The Prophecy *Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-23*

The Hymn UMH #196 “*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*”

The Child Is Born

The Birth of Jesus *Isaiah 9:6; Luke 2:1-7*

The Lighting of the Christ Candle and Aisle Candle

Now, the time we have been waiting for is here. Our Lord has come! Tonight we light the Christ Candle to remind us that He is with us always. If we keep Christ at the center of our lives, He will be with us for all eternity. Praise be to God!

The Hymn UMH #246

“Joy to the World”

The Pastoral Prayer

The Affirmation of Faith

We believe Jesus Christ, born humbly in a manger this night, is the Son of God. He is the light in the darkness—sent from God to save us from our sins. We believe we are called and empowered by the Holy Spirit to be disciples of Jesus Christ and share the good news of his birth, life, ministry and resurrection. On this night we celebrate Christ’s birth as we all wait for his second coming. Amen.

The Anthem

“What If the Manger Were Empty?”
by Susan Naylor Callaway

The Child is Worshipped

The Announcement

Luke 2: 8-18

The Christmas Offering

“What Child is This?”
Old English Melody, arr. Dennis Alexander

The Doxology UMH #94

The Prayer of Dedication

No offering is adequate to express our thanks, O Loving God, but what we give, we bring with joy. May the good tidings of salvation live in our lives. May the ends of the earth know the steadfast love of God. Grant comfort to those who mourn, peace to those who suffer, and joy to all who serve in Christ’s name. Amen.

The Solo

“Where’s the Line to See Jesus?”
by Haupt & Loesch

Tyler Kokke

The Light of the Christ-Child

The Scripture

John 1:1-5, 14 (NIV)

The Message

“The Miracle of Christmas”

Rev. Emmanuel Dass

The Lighting of the Candles

As “Silent Night, Holy Night” is being sung and the lights are being dimmed, the Pastor will light a candle from the Christ-Child. The Pastor will then light the candles of the candle lighters gathered at the altar. They will light the candle of the

first worshiper in the pew, and the light will be passed from worshiper to worshiper. Remember the lighted candle remains upright while unlighted candle is tipped to the lighted. Before leaving the pews, worshipers are requested to extinguish their candles and deposit them in the receptacles provided at the back.

The Hymn UMH #239

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

The Benediction

In the quietness of this hour, in the assurance of God’s abiding love, in the joy of a child born in Bethlehem, in the hope that our dreams find fulfillment in Christ. May all the paths you walk be lighted with joy, peace, and love. Amen.

The Response UMH #431

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

The Postlude

“Joy to the World” by George F. Handel

Have A Blessed Christmas!!!

Special thanks to those who shared poinsettias to decorate the Sanctuary for the holiday season:

Donna Bresee in memory of her husband, Floyd Bresee

Donna Freed to the glory of God

David Miller in memory of Leland Miller

Karen & Ken King in memory of William & Thelma Fisher

Larry & Charlene Seid in memory of their parents

Donna Ness in memory of Bill & Bev Burton

Mike & Carol Holmes in memory of Mike’s parents, Marold & Louise and in memory of Carol’s mother, Helen.

Sharon Wilcox in memory of loved ones who have passed away

Jim & Connie Keller to the glory of God

Elton Wolfe in memory of Marilyn Wolfe

Bruce & Lori Evans in memory of Rex Carr, Richard Carlson, and Cheryl Kennedy and in honor of our family

Plants may be taken home following tonight’s service.

