

*DOXOLOGY *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH #95

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Holy God, we are grateful for the incredible gift born in a stable in Bethlehem. The love and joy birthed by Jesus has touched and transformed our lives. We bring our gifts to you this night. We bring our gifts of money to continue your mission of peace. We bring our hearts, as we adore you and long to follow Jesus. Amen.

*HYMN *Go Tell It on the Mountain* UMH #251
Verses 1 & 3

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Pastor Sue will take the light from the Christ Candle with which to light the congregation's candles.

One: The Light of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

*HYMN *Silent Night, Holy Night* UMH #239

*BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

We have heard the Christmas story of love—love born in a manger. Like Mary, we hold this story deep in our hearts. Let us join the angels, telling this news of incredible joy. And may God's blessing of peace be ours this night and forevermore.

POSTLUDE *Silent Night, Holy Night*
by Franz Gruber & Charles Webb

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED

NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS



**Community United Methodist Church
100 Park Blvd.
Massapequa, NY 11758**

December 24, 2024

**Reverend Sue H. Yun, Pastor
Jeong-Hwa Park, Minister of Music
Stacey Longenberger, Secretary**

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

5 p.m.

December 24, 2024

PRELUDE

Sheep May Safely Graze
by J. S. Bach

INTROIT

Sing We All Noel
Arr. by Ruth Elain Schram

CUMC Adult Choir

WELCOME ALL CHILDREN OF GOD

CHRISTMAS GREETING

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST (Luke 2:14)

One: A great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace!" Let us share God's peace with one another with this heaven-sent peace. The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you

*HYMN

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

UMH #224

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: What's happening?

All: A child is born.

One: Who is this child?

All: This is Jesus, God's gift to us.

One: Let's go see!

All: The baby is in a manger.

One: Let's go tell!

All: Jesus is born!

One: Let's praise God!

All: Glory to God! Christ Is Born the Holy Child

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, this is a holy night. We come longing to hear your story of new life and hope. Speak your words of truth and power. May the gift of your love be born anew among us. Cast out our fears, that we may rejoice in your power and your goodness. Amen.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE LIGHTING & MEDITATION: The Heldt Family

Reader One: Beloved, today we welcome the Christ Child, the fulfillment of our joy, as we proclaim with the prophet Isaiah, "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;

authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

Congregation: Christ our joy has come near. Emmanuel, God with us, has come to dwell with us as a tiny baby. "His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this" (Isaiah 9:7).

Reader Two: We light this candle as a sign of Christ coming to dwell with us, to live in the neighborhood of vulnerable humanity as a vulnerable child. May the light of Christ warm our hearts and light our way as we share the joy of God's salvation wherever we go.

All the candles of the Advent wreath are lit.

A VOCAL SOLO

O Holy Night
by Adolphe Adam

Debbie Holland

A SCRIPTURE READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 9:2-7

One: The Word of God for the people of God

All: Thanks be to God.

AN INSTRUMENTAL DUET

It Came Upon The Midnight Clear
Richard Willis / arr. by Joel Raney

Chrissy Fong on Flute & Jeong-Hwa Park on Piano

A SCRIPTURE READING FROM THE GOSPEL Luke 1:46-56

One: The Word of God for the people of God

All: Thanks be to God.

A VOCAL SOLO

Shepherd Boy
by Phil Wickham, Jonathan Smith & Steven Furtick

Tyler Stankiewicz

A LETTER FROM JESUS

Read by Sean Mitchell

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

"You Are the Reason for Christmas"

Rev. Sue H. Yun

INVITATION TO GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

On this night, we remember God's gift of Jesus. Having heard the song of the angels, the shepherds had to see for themselves. They returned praising God for this amazing gift. May our gifts today echo their praise. Thank you, God, for Jesus.

WEEKLY OFFERING & NOISY OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Christ Is Born the Holy Child
Arr. by Marion Vree

CUMC Adult Choir