

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

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!
Amen.

**Merry
Christmas**

A special thanks to all of the participants of this candlelight service for sharing their special gifts with us on this holy night.

We, of Emmanuel United Church, wish everyone a very blessed Christmas.

EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

DECEMBER 24, 2008
7:30 P.M.



Emmanuel United Church
Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
Rev. Jerrie Shepard Matney, Interim Pastor
December 24, 2008, 7:30P.M.
A Ceremony of Lessons And Carols

Prelude

Gathering Song: #185 – “*Emmanuel*” (2x)

Call to Worship:

Joy to you and to all creation,
For to you is born this day in the town of Bethlehem,
God’s Messiah.

**Surely God has done a marvelous thing,
And we rejoice in it!**

Sing praises to God and to God’s Messiah,
Whose lowly birth in a strange town is a sign to us.

**Surely God has overturned the proud
and exalted the humble.**

Rejoice, O people of God,
For we have been visited with the promise
Of the ages that the world may believe
And find life in Christ’s name.

Hymn # 194, “*Joy to the World*” ,vs. 1,4

Evening Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

Eternal God, who promises the world the gift of your Son, we await the coming of Christ among us, as you must wait for the birth of love in us, and in the world. We confess that our lives are too often gripped by fear, selfishness, and the love of security. Free us from these burdens, that we may learn to love as Christ loved. May our hearts be changed and our lives reborn by the presence of the Christ Child among us. As we search for peace, for *Shalom*, in this world, remind us that we find it only in you. Be with us this evening as we gather to celebrate the birth of your Son, the Prince of Peace. May his Light shine in us!

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen

Lighting of the Advent Candles

The Christ Candle-The Salmon Family

Hymn – # 188, “*O Come, All Ye Faithful*”, v.1,3

The Prophecies – Isaiah 9:2-7, Micah 5:2

Hymn #187, “*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*”

Christmas Joy Offering-For Retired Ministers and Missionaries

Doxology and Prayer (#623)

The Birth of Jesus – Matthew 1: 18-25-from The Message

Hymn 200, “*O Little Town of Bethlehem*” v. 1,4

Journey to Bethlehem – Luke 2:1-7

Special Music, “*A New Gift of Love*” - Choir (*Dvorak*)

The Shepherds – Luke 2:8-20

Special Music-“*O Holy Night*” - Mary Beth Fusco, soloist

The Wise Men – Matthew 2:1-12

Hymn - #220 – “*We Three Kings*” vs. 1, 5

The Incarnation – John 1:1-16, #183

Reading: 1“The Word Was Made Flesh and Dwelt Among Us”

Special Music, “*And the Stars Sang Alleluia*”, (*Wagner/ Lee*)

The Ceremony of Lights

We will form a circle around the sanctuary and pass the light from the Christ Candle around as we sing “*Silent Night*”, printed on the back of the bulletin.



The offering this evening will be used for the “Christmas Joy” Offering (PCUSA) and the “Retired Ministers and Missionaries” offering (ABCUSA). Both of these are used for emergency assistance and “thank-you” gifts for our retired pastors and their widowed spouses. Thank-you for our generous gifts to this ministry.