

# CHRISTMAS EVE

## Music for the Gathering of Christ's People

### Call to Worship

*Sing We Now of Christmas*

Douglas Wagner

### Greeting

#### \* Processional Hymn

*Joy to The World*

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.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow, far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

### Lighting of the Christ Candle

Rev. Narcie Jeter and Family

### Congregational Response

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

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; *Refrain:* O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

### The First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

Minister: The word of God for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

### Anthem

*Away in a Manger/Go, Tell it on the Mountain*

Children's Choirs

### Our Christmas Prayer

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Minister: Let us pray.

### Blessing of our Gifts and Lives to the Christ Child

#### \* The Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:1-20

Minister: The word of God for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

#### Sermon

“The Best Christmas Pageant Ever”

Rev. Narcie Jeter

#### \* Congregational Hymn

*Away in a Manger*

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, but 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.

#### \* Sharing the Light of Christ

A small candle or glow stick will be given to each person as you enter. If we miss you, there will be time during the announcement period for the ushers to distribute candles and glow sticks to those who have not received them. *After the singing of “Silent Night, Holy Night” – please extinguish your candle.* After the service, as you exit, please place your candles in the boxes provided. Children may keep their glow sticks.

#### *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 host 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.

#### \* Christmas Blessing

#### \* Postlude

*Joy to the World*

arr. Don Hustad

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\* Congregation standing

*The altar greens are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Julie Nicole Jett by Bob, Pat and Brad Jett.*



Rev. Mitch Houston, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Narcie Jeter, Associate Pastor  
Rev. Mark Barnes, Minister of Congregational Care  
Rev. James Alewine, Pastor Emeritus  
Mrs. Barbara Bassett, Interim Director of Music  
Mr. Michael López, Organist

Bethany United Methodist Church  
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# **“YOU WILL FIND A BABY**

*wrapped in swaddling cloths  
and lying in a manger.”*

*Luke 2:12*



December 24, 2020  
5:00 PM