

# Communion & Candlelight

December 24, 2023 | 3pm & 5pm

Gathering For Praise

## Welcome & Announcements

**Introit** 'Christmas Introit' Andrew Bryant (3pm)  
Janet and Cliff Joens (5pm)

## Call To Worship

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory.**

Let us dance with delight in the Lord and let our hearts be filled with rejoicing, for eternal salvation has appeared on the earth. Alleluia!

**\*Hymn of Praise** 'Joy to the World' UMH 246

**A Reading from the Prophet** Isaiah 9: 2-7 (NRSV)

**Christmas Candle Liturgy** The Hand Family (3pm)  
The Matthews-Thompson Family (5pm)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light!

**We wait for you no longer, Lord Jesus, you have come!**

God has increased our joy, for a child has been given to us, a Son has been born to us!

**We wait for you no longer, Lord Jesus, you have come!**

His name is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**His name is Lord Jesus Christ, and He has come!**

We light the Christ candle today, along with all the Christmas candles of Hope, Love, Peace, and Joy, to knock holes in the darkness.

**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot put it out! Amen!**

## Hearing God's Word

**Scripture Reading** Luke 2: 1-20 (NRSV) Tali Nance (3pm)  
Kyle Thompson (5pm)

## Response

The Word became flesh and blood and lived among us.

**Thanks be to God!**

**\*Hymn of Preparation** 'Angels We Have Heard On High' UMH 238

**Sermon** This Will Be A Sign.. Rev. Brian Gilmer

## Responding to God's Word

**\*Hymn of Response** 'O Come, All Ye Faithful' UMH 234

## Confession and Pardon

**Merciful God, we confess that often we find darkness more comfortable than light. We confess that Christmas has become more to us than the birthday of the Christ, partly because we do not want a Christ-Child in our lives or in our world. We confess that we forget our true King, our true Savior, our true Emmanuel, our true Love, our true Light. Forgive us, break us, bend us, remake us. Be born again into our world, be born again into our hearts and lives, and help us to carry Christ into the world so that all will know his light and life.**

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners, proving God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.**

**The Great Thanksgiving** UMH 15

## Communion of the People

**Communion Anthem** 'O, Holy Night' Andrew Bryant (3pm)  
Janet and Cliff Joens (5pm)

**Offertory** Christmas Selections Ginger Greer (3pm)

**Christmas Eve Offering** Janet and Cliff Joens (5pm)

(Our offering will be split between The Clubhouse Gang and Meals on Wheels. Please leave an offering on the altar rail or in the plates on your way out, or give through our e-giving portal on our website by scanning the QR code below.)

## Going Forth to Serve God's World

## Receiving and Sharing the Light

Please say 'The light of Christ' as you share your light with your neighbor'

**\*Hymn of Sending** 'Silent Night' (vs. 1-3) UMH 239

# *Travelers Rest United Methodist Church*

*The Church on the Trail*

*Walking with Christ, Serving God, Changing Lives.*

**December 24, 2023 | Communion & Candlelight Service**



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