



Christmas
shines its
miracle
in our
hearts.

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given. | ISAIAH 9:6

Christmas Eve
7 pm December 24, 2023

Helping with Worship tonight:

Greeters/Ushers: Donna & Sarah Church

Acolytes: Landon H. & Makayla K. | Liturgist: Rich Oley Trumpet: T.J. Storm

(* indicates please stand if you are able)

PRELUDE "Sing We Now of Christmas" Arr. Kevin McChesney
Praise Ringers

WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Rich Oley

Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people:

To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

So, come, come, and worship.

Let us worship Christ, the newborn King.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES & CHRIST CANDLE The Kucewicz Family

***OPENING HYMN** "O Come All Ye Faithful" #234
Vs. 1-3, 6

CHILDREN'S CHAT

GIFT OF MUSIC "Sparkling Stars Shining in the Night" By Nancy Raabe
Children of Light

THE GOOD NEWS IN SCRIPTURE AND MUSIC

The Prophecy . . .

Scripture

Isaiah 9:2-7

Carol

"Joy to the World" (Stanzas 1 & 4)

Red Hymnal #246

Scripture

Luke 1:26-35, 38

Carol

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" (Stanza 1)

Red Hymnal #216

The Birth . . .

Scripture

Luke 2:1-5

Carol

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" (Stanza 1)

Red Hymnal #230

Scripture Luke 2:6-7
Carol "Away in a Manger" Red Hymnal #217
(Stanza 1 & 2)

The Proclamation . . .

Scripture Luke 2:8-14
Carol "The First Noel" (Stanza 1 & 2) Red Hymnal #245

The Shepherd's Adoration . . .

Scripture Luke 2:15-20
Musical Response "For Unto Us" By R. Kevin Boesiger
Chancel & God's Handful Choirs with Trumpet: T.J. Storm

The Light of the World . . .

Scripture John 1:1-5, 9-14

GIFT OF MUSIC "O Holy Night" Barbara Buxton

GIVING OUR GIFTS TO GOD "Christmastime" God's Handful

***MUSICAL RESPONSE** "Angels We Have Heard on High"
Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing; Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**
God of light, author of salvation, you have given us a gift beyond price – the gift of your own child, the gift of everlasting life. We join the angels and the shepherds this night to celebrate our great joy as we offer you our gifts – gifts of our deepest love and thankfulness.
Amen.

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE "Making Room for Light" Pastor Jon Buxton

HOLY COMMUNION (see insert)

***THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES** Chancel Choir & God's Handful
"Night of the Father's Love"
(As the light comes to you, please tip your unlit candle to receive the light of Christ – and then hold it upright to pass it onto the person next to you.)

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

This is a magical night. God-with-us has come to touch our world and our lives and make a home in our hearts. God-with-us has come to bring us out of darkness into a glorious light. God-with-us invites us now to come to the table, believing in the promises of God fulfilled tonight. Here we hear angels, and see shepherds, and are transformed by a baby.

Here love is offered, and love is found.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

“God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.” (1 John 4: 9-10)

With joy and gratitude, we break this bread and remember another night
when your love was revealed.

For on that night many years after Jesus’ birth, Jesus took the bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying, “Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

**With awe and wonder, we fill this cup and remember another night
when your forgiveness was revealed.**

Jesus took the cup, gave thanks to you, and gave it to the disciples, saying, “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

Pour out your Holy Spirit on all of us gathered here, that we who walked in darkness might walk forth in the light of Christ. Shine your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine, that your glorious grace and love might flow through us as the very presence of Christ.

**As we receive these gifts, may we shine forth as your people,
that the glory of Christ might be revealed for all to see.**

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

By God’s grace, this table is open for all.

You are invited to receive this gift, a sign of God’s love given for you.

“Silent 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!*

***BENEDICTION**

We go out into the world with good news of great joy – Jesus Christ is born!
Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth – peace.

***POSTLUDE**

“Voluntary on Two Carols”

By David Kidwell
Organ: Nancy Evans

Thank you for joining us this evening. If you are looking for a church home, we’d love to welcome you as part of the Shavertown UMC Family! Please fill out a connection card found in the pew and put it in the collection plate. We worship Saturdays at 5:30 pm and Sundays at 9:30 am. Christian education is available for all ages. We invite you to visit our welcome table in the Narthex for a gift and more information about our church. You can follow us on Facebook or visit our website at shavertownumc.com. We hope you will join us again.

SHAVERTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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**The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world!**

