

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (CONGREGATIONAL)**

13740 Pearl Road, Strongsville, Ohio 44136

**Rev. Rebecca Stephenson, Pastor Church (440) 238-6697**

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**December 24, 2016 11:00 P.M. Christmas Eve**

\* *Those who are able may stand. Please remain seated for tonight's hymns.*

**BELL PRE-SERVICE MUSIC** *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*  
*The Little Drummer Boy*  
*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

**PRELUDE** *On Christmas Night* Sussex Carol  
(English Traditional Tune)  
Barb Fraunfelder, Handbell Solo

**CHORAL INTROIT** *Who Would Send a Baby?* Mary Kay Bell  
Rob Toth, Percussion

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**All: The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.**

One: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them has the light shined.

**All: We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from God.**

One: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.

**All: In him was life, and the life was the light of all.**

**HYMN 249** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH** Kenn and Ginny Oerkftiz

Leader: Can you feel it? There is a wonderful anticipation in the air. Let us light the candles of Advent: Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace. *(Light the four advent candles.)*

**People: The hour is coming. We can feel God moving! The promise of God is coming true. Unto us a child shall be born, a son given, and he shall be called**

**Wonderful, Counselor, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

**SCRIPTURE** Isaiah 9:6-7

**CHOIR ANTHEM** *Prepare the Way of the Lord* William Towan

**SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER** (in unison)

**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.**

**PRAYER RESPONSE** Native American Flute

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** *Do You Hear What I Hear?* Noel Regney, Gloria Shayne  
Choir, Rob Toth – Percussion, Doug Thorn – Organ Chimes

**\* DOXOLOGY** (No. 263) *What Can I Give Him?*  
What can I give Him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
Yet what can I give Him? Give Him my heart.

**\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**SCRIPTURES** Luke 2:1-7

**HYMN 262** *Away in a Manger*

**SCRIPTURES** Luke 2:8-20

**SERMON** "Do You Hear What I Hear?"

**SPECIAL MUSIC** *Ring the Bells* Valerie MacKenzie  
Choir and Barb Fraunfelder, Handbells

**SERVICE OF CANDLE LIGHTING**

Lighting the Christ Candle and Passing the Light of Christ

*Please dip your unlit candle into the lit one, sharing the Light of Christ with your neighbor.*

**HYMN***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, 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!

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.

**THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING****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 men 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 sin and sorrow 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.

**\* BENEDICTION****\* POSTLUDE***The King Is Coming*

**Christmas Eve 2016 11:00 P.M.**