

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

13740 Pearl Road, Strongsville, Ohio 44136

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**December 24, 2015      11:00 P.M.      Christmas Eve**

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

**BELL PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

*Silent Night, Holy Night*  
Franz Gruber, arr. Kevin McChesney

**PRELUDE**

**INTROIT**

**\* 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**

The Dickson/Jannsohn/Joyce Family

Leader: Can you feel it? There is a wonderful anticipation in the air. Let us light the candles of Advent: the Prophet Candle, the Angel Candle, the Bethlehem Candle, and the Shepherds' Candle. *(Light the four 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**

**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**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

**\* DOXOLOGY** (No. 815)

**\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**SCRIPTURES**

Luke 2:1-7

**HYMN 262**

*Away in a Manger*

**SCRIPTURES**

Luke 2:8-20

**SERMON**

*"Did You Know?"*

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

## **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**

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