

AN ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR THE GATHERED COMMUNITY

Woodridge United Methodist Church

Sunday, December 24th, 2024

Christmas Eve 5:00 pm

## Prelude

## Lighting of the Altar Candles

Jiwon

## Singing

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" (*verses 1 & 3*)

UMH #234

## Lighting the Advent Candles and Christ Candle

**Jiho:** We light Advent candles as a sign of hope, peace, joy and love of God in our lives.

**Many Voices: The true light is shining in the world.**

**Jiho:** It is the light of our beloved Savior Jesus Christ.

**Many Voices: We light this Christ candle and remember how much Jesus loves us and the world.**

*[Four Advent Candles and the Christ Candle are lit]*

## Christmas Affirmation

**Jiho:** We believe in God, the creator and giver of life, who brought all creation to birth, who mothers us and fathers us, protecting, nurturing, and cherishing us. We believe in Jesus Christ: God born among us as a fragile baby, embodying both love and the need for love, and calling us to rest in God as trustingly as a tiny child. We believe in the Holy Spirit, breathed into us at our birth, always drawing us on to be born again, encouraging, exhorting, comforting, nourishing our growth and inspiring our living. Holy God of Love, there is light in our lives because of the abundance of your steadfast love. A love so vast, so deep, so real, that you became one of us. May we live within the power of this love. And may we share its light with a world where too many dwell in darkness. In Jesus' name we pray.

**Many Voices: Amen.**

## Singing

"Light the Advent Candle" (*verse 5*)

TFWS #2090

## Welcome

### \*Call to Worship

**Larry Cash:** All people are welcome here tonight.

**Many Voices: We have gathered to hear the story of Jesus' birth.**

**Larry Cash:** All who walk in darkness,

**Many Voices: come see a great light.**

**Larry Cash:** All who hope to see God,

**Many Voices: come see the glory of our savior, Jesus Christ.**

**Larry Cash:** All who are simply waiting to see what's next,

**Many Voices: come see the good news God brings.**

**Larry Cash:** Rejoice before God in the light and glory of this night.

**Many Voices: We rejoice that God's grace has appeared, bringing salvation to all.**

**Larry Cash:** Come, let us worship the birth of our Savior!

**Many Voices: Come, let us worship God who came to dwell among us!**

**\*Singing**

"Away in a Manger"

UMH #217

**\*Passing the Peace**

**Prayer**

**Larry Cash:** Holy God, help us pause in the midst of our busyness. Quiet our minds and spirits on this Christmas Eve, that we may hear the good news of your gift of Jesus Christ – your gift to a world so in need of peace, justice, and joy. If we walk in darkness and despair, help us see the great light of your presence. If we wait in hope for the coming of Christ, help us offer help to those around us. Help us see your glory breaking into our lives. In the quiet of this night, may we welcome your peace and favor, through Jesus Christ, our Messiah and Lord.

**All: Amen!**

**Blessing Our Children**

Karen Miller

**Offering Ourselves**

Special Music

Amanda Smith

\*Doxology

\*Offering Prayer

**All: Glorious God, as the shepherds rejoiced at the angel's news, we too bring our offerings with joy. Bless these gifts, that they may spread your good news of great joy to all people. Use them to bring peace, justice, and hope to our community and beyond. In this season of Advent, may our giving reflect the light of Christ, and may we be your instruments of love and generosity. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

**Scripture Readings**

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7 (NRSVue)

Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:1-20 (NRSVue)

**Larry Cash:** The Word of God for the People of God.

**Many Voices: Thanks be to God.**

**Singing**

"Star-Child"

TFWS #2095

**Christmas Reflection**

Pastor Dave

**Lord's Prayer**

**The Light of Christ Fills Our Hearts**

*[While "Silent Night" is playing, Pastor Dave will light a candle from the Christ Candle. Pastor Dave and liturgist will pass the flames to the first worshipper at the end of the aisle, and that person will pass it to the next, and so on. May we all take care to ensure that we do this safely.]*

**\*Singing**

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

UMH #239

*[Please, raise your candle carefully during the third stanza as a tribute to God's Wondrous Light, Jesus Christ, shining in our lives and through us to the world.]*

**\*Dismiss with Blessing**

*[All extinguish the candles before exiting the sanctuary.]*

**\*Hymn of Sending Forth**

"Joy to the World"

UMH #246

**Merry Christmas!**