

Potsdam United Methodist Church  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
December 24, 2025 - 7:00 pm

# *Christmas Eve ~ December 24, 2025*

**Celebrating the Gift of Christ's Resurrection in Potsdam United Methodist Church**

\*Please stand, whether in body or in spirit

*At Potsdam UMC, all persons are welcome and celebrated regardless of gender, culture, nationality, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender identity, economic circumstance, age, physical and mental ability, marital status or family structure.*

## **WE GATHER IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST**

**PRELUDE** *The First Nowell (The First Noel)* Traditional English Carol  
arr. Bernard Dewagtere

*As we listen to the prelude, take time for quiet contemplation and prayer*

**INTROIT** *Away in a Manger* [UMH 217 VS 1&3]

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Let us go, just as we are, to see what has happened,  
let us go with the shepherds:  
**P: let us go and find the One of whom the angels sang.**  
L: Let us go with those who are wise:  
**P: let us go and find the One who brings God's truth to us.**  
L: Let us go with the poor in spirit, and in flesh;  
let us go with those who are humbled by life:  
**P: Let us find the Glory of God born in a stable, and placed in a manger.**  
L: Let us go with our friends and family, let us go with our neighbors  
and with strangers, let us go with all the children of God:  
**P: let us go to find the One who comes to lead us home  
to God's kingdom.**  
L: O come, let us go to the Babe of Bethlehem; O come, let us adore him!  
**P: Christ our Lord!**

**\*HYMN** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* UMH #211, verses 1&3

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

L: We rejoice in God's steadfast presence in our lives, and in God's unique presence in the life of Jesus of Nazareth — born of Mary, growing through childhood into an adult ministry, in all his life manifesting the peace, love, and justice of God; his voice undimmed by the centuries his call and his promise as clear to us as it was to his disciples so long ago.

**All: Come to us, Lord Jesus, be born in us this night,  
in our hearts, our minds, our lives.**

**May the light of your life be kindled in us and lead us to the shining  
truth... of God with us, God for us, God in us. AMEN**

**CHOIR ANTHEM** *Glory Hallelujah*, written by Lloyd Larson

**PRAISE TO GOD - Lighting the Christ Candle: BELOVED CHILD, JESUS**

**\*HYMN** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* UMH #234, verses 1&3

## **WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

<b>READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT</b>	<b>Isaiah 9:2-7</b>	<b>UMH #205</b>
<b>HYMN</b>	<b>In the Bleak Midwinter</b>	<b>UMH #221, verses 1&amp;2</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT</b>		<b>Luke 2:1-7</b>
<b>SPECIAL MUSIC</b>	<b><i>What Child is This?</i></b>	<b>Dr. Risa Okina &amp; Jeremy Ong</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT</b>		<b>Luke 2:8-14</b>
<b>HYMN</b>	<b>Infant Holy, Infant Lowly</b>	<b>UMH #229</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT</b>		<b>Luke 2:15-20</b>
<b>SPECIAL MUSIC</b>	<b><i>Christmas Medley</i></b>	<b>Dr. Risa Okina &amp; Jeremy Ong</b>
<b>A MESSAGE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE</b>		<b>NIGHT</b>
	Rev. Heidi R. Chamberlain	

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

### **OUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

*Responding to God's invitation, in joy, we offer our gifts*

*During this season especially, we are mindful that the work of the church continues. As such, we ask for your continued stewardship.*

### **THE CANDLE LIGHTING SERVICE**

L: The light of God is given for you, given to you, and by you it is given to others.

<b>*HYMN</b>	<b>Silent Night</b>	<b>UMH #239</b>
	<b>[Extinguish your light]</b>	

## **GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD**

<b>READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT</b>		<b>Titus 2:11-14</b>
<b>*HYMN</b>	<b>Joy to the World</b>	<b>UMH #246, verse 1</b>

### **\*THE BENEDICTION**

L: In darkness we arrived.

P: **In light we now leave.**

L: Though once we stumbled,

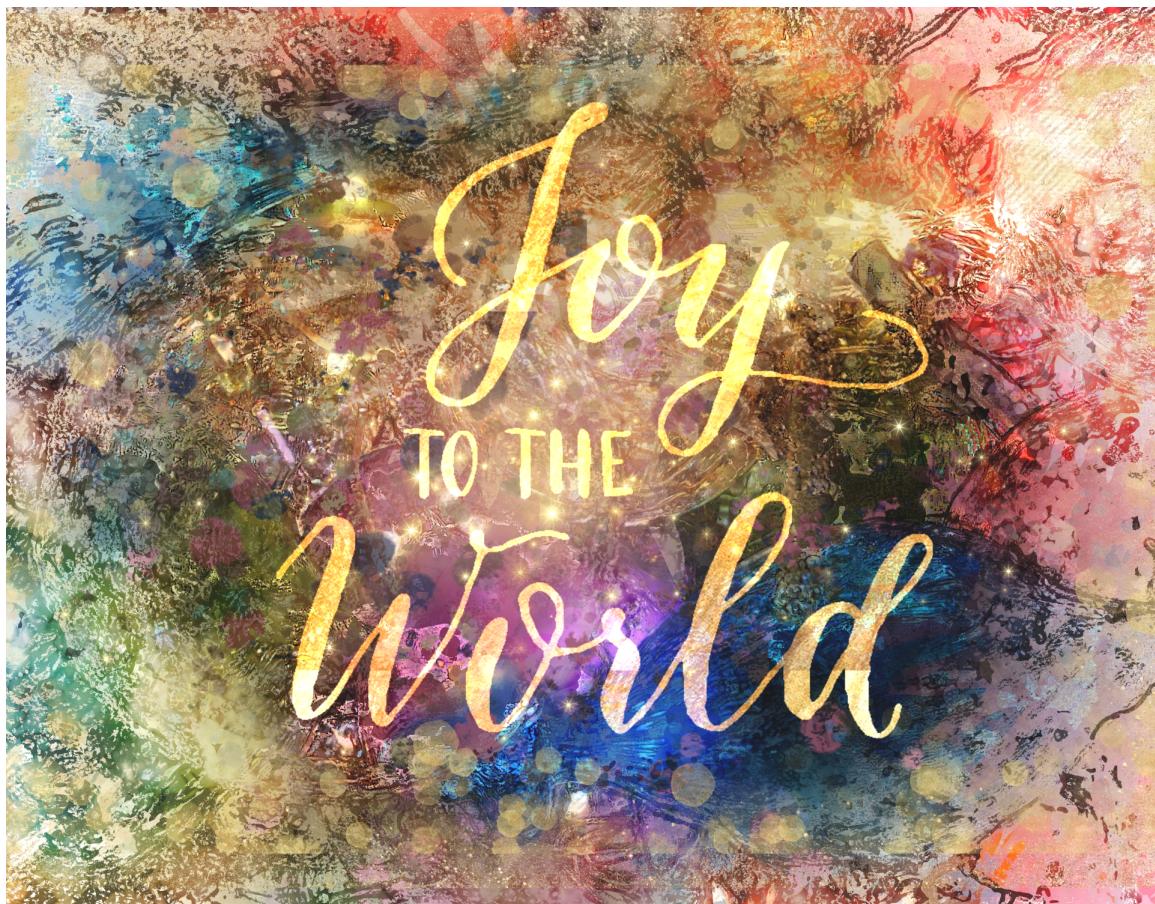
P: **we now walk with confidence.**

L: Rise up and go, for the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

All: **May the light of Christ lead us forevermore. Jesus Christ is born!**

**POSTLUDE** *Wish you a Merry Christmas*, Traditional English Canticle  
arr. Bernard Dewagtere

*Go forward, to live the church, in ministry to all the world*



**COVER:** *The Holy Family of Nazareth* is a painting by Smith Catholic Art which was uploaded on January 2nd, 2021.

**Pastor: Heidi Chamberlain**

**Musician: Dr. Risa Okina ♦ Choir Director: Anthony Steen**

***Heartfelt Thanks to our Special Musical Guest, Jeremy Ong***

**Potsdam United Methodist Church ♦ 26 Main Street, Potsdam NY 13676**

Pastor's Office Hours as scheduled with Pastor Heidi Chamberlain

To schedule a pastoral conversation please call: 315-528-4709 (cell) **OR** the Church office: 315-265-7474

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