

<>Unless stated otherwise, all hymns & psalters are selected from the UMH

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Celebration of His Birth & Holy Communion—Family Gathering  
Christmas Eve, Holy Sunday, December 24, 2018 at 7 PM

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP—FAMILY GATHERING  
CHRISTMAS EVE & COMMUNION SERVICE

*[Together, We Gather To Celebrate His Birth]*

THE MUSICAL PRELUDE: The Strings  
THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES: The Acolyte(s)  
THE WELCOMING, ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BIDDING PRAYER

1<sup>st</sup> CAROL O Come, All Ye Faithful No. 234

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Writing Scripture, St. John began his Gospel by writing: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made."

*We light the Center Candle, the Christ Candle to remind us that we are called to make Christ the center of our lives. The evangelist Luke painted the nativity sky and repeated the heavenly song of the angels, "Glory, peace on earth and goodwill!" John declared that this great light is Christ, the Word made flesh. This great light lives among us. By it we behold God's glory—full of grace and truth. At Christ's nativity, we now rejoice.*

***People's Response:*** God, our Life and Light, thank you for coming this night to us. Thank you for touching all heaven and earth with your splendor. In every corner of the world, shine this night with your peace. In every corner of our hearts, shine this night with your grace. Amen.

**\*\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)**

**MINISTER:** Let us rejoice and dance with great delight in the Lord, and let our heart be filled with rejoicing.

**PEOPLE:** FOR ETERNAL SALVATION HAS APPEARED ON EARTH. ALLELUIA!

**\*\*THE GATHERING PRAYER (in unison)**

HOLY GOD, THE MYSTERY OF YOUR ETERNAL WORD TOOK FLESH AMONG US IN JESUS CHRIST. AT THE MESSAGE OF AN ANGEL, THE VIRGIN MARY PLACED HER LIFE AT THE SERVICE OF YOUR WILL. FILLED WITH THE SERVICE OF YOUR SPIRIT, SHE BECAME THE TEMPLE OF YOUR WORD. STRENGTHEN US BY THE EXAMPLE OF HER HUMILITY, THAT WE MAY ALWAYS BE READY TO DO YOUR WILL, AND WELCOME INTO OUR LIVES JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.  
(Liturgy of the Hours)

2<sup>nd</sup> CAROL: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" No. 211

THE BLESSING OF THE NATIVITY SCENE

THE ADVENT PRESENTATION ~ BY THE CHILDREN

Anthem "The Nativity Journey" Children's Choir

THE WRITTEN WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Isaiah 9:2, 6-7... Page 1072

\*\*Gospel Luke 2: 1-16 Page 1590-91

3<sup>RD</sup> Carol: "Angels We Have Heard on High" No.238

*[Together, We Proclaim & Respond To His Birth]*

LITURGY OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERING OF OUR CHRISTMAS GIFTS

THE DOXOLOGY: "Thank You, Lord" No. 84

THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION  
THE LORD'S PRAYER No. 894

*[Together, We Depart To Tell Of His Birth]*

4<sup>TH</sup> CAROL "Joy to the World" No. 246

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

**\*\*THE BENEDICTION**

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. Please come again!

**Today's Participants in Worship**

Preacher: Pastor Anthony Brima  
Liturgist: Erika Haag Acolyte: Aimee & Austin Haag  
Ushers: Jim & Jeffrey Haag Greeters: Jim & Jeffrey Haag

## *WHAT IS CHRISTMAS?*

*The word "Christmas" comes from the season's first Service, the "Christ Mass." It is a season of praise and thanksgiving for the incarnation (taking flesh) of God in Jesus Christ. It begins with Christmas Eve/Day and continues through the day of Epiphany.*

*"Epiphany" comes from the Greek word, "epiphanies," meaning "manifestation." Celebrative colors of gold and white are used for permanent, stoles, robes and banners.*

## *MERRY CHRISTMAS!!*

*My Christian sisters & brothers,*

*Annie, Mustapha, Miata, Bambang and I wish you and yours a Joyous Christmas and a New Year full of Good Health and Success surrounded by fulfilled hope, unbroken love, ceaseless joy, abiding peace and cherished memories.*

*Stay blessed,*

*Anthony*

## **ST. PAUL-CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**



*[The church with Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors]*

**CHRISTMAS EVE & COMMUNION SERVICE  
Monday, December 24th, 2018 At 7:00 P.M.**

*A Text For Your Reflection*

*For unto us a child is born; unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder. These will be his royal titles: "Wonderful," "Counselor," "The Mighty God," "The Everlasting Father," "The Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9: 6)*