Christmas Eve Service /candlelight Communion

(A Festival of lessons and Carols)
6:00 p.m. Monday 24th December 2018

- **Please stand as you are able.**

The Order of worship Service

Prelude **"Pastoral Symphony"** **Nancy Cook, Organist**

"Shout the Glad Tidings"

Gathering: Welcome and Greetings

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH:
Pastor: The Living God, come to our world, Isaiah 9:2, 5, 6, 7,
Congregation: May the love of Christ shine brightly, at the center of our lives, spreading warmth and light, in us, in this congregation, and through us everywhere! Amen!

GATHERING HYMN # 158** ***Come, Christians, Join to Sing
(Choir leads and Congregation responds- Alleluja A-men!)

Call to worship: "IN THE QUITE of the NIGHT"- Pastor and Congregation
P: In the quiet of the night
a woman gives birth:
C: a personal act of faith; accepting God's charge upon herself.

P: In the quiet of the night
a husband becomes a father:
C: a personal act of faith; accepting God's charge upon himself.

P: In the quiet of the night, a baby of divine birth breathes the earthly air!
C: a personal act of sacrifice; God steps out of the divine into the mundane for us.

*** Opening UMH Hymn # 238** ***Angels We Have Heard on High***

Opening Prayer: Unison

God of love, you have brought us together tonight and blessed us with your very presence. Open our hearts and minds to the light of Christ that glows in the darkness of a world engulfed in apathy, pain and loss; a world estranged from your love. Speak to each of us by name and at the point of our respective needs as we hear anew the good news of your gracious gift of salvation. In the wonder of your presence, fill us with that light and carry it out with us into the world of our lives. This and other prayers we offer in the name of your blessed Son, our Lord and Savior, "The Christ-child." Amen!

Chancel Choir **"A Merry Carol of the Bells"** **Nancy Cook. Director**

***A Litany of Advent Hope: Leader and Congregation: (Lesson Isaiah 9:2-7) Peggy Nejedly**

L- The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

C- You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest! The Light of God shines on us tonight!

L- Thou hast multiplied the nation, thou hast increased its joy; they rejoice before thee as with joy at the harvest, as people rejoice when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of their burden, and the staff of their shoulders, the rod of their oppressors, you have broken!

C- The light of God shines on us tonight! For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the authority shall be upon his shoulders, and his name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Hymn # 224 ***Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (1,3)***

Gospel Luke 2:1-14 **Ed Guckenberger**

Special music **Praise Team**

Luke 2: 15-20 **Ellen Spiering**

Chancel Choir **"Christmas Night"** **Nancy Cook. Director**

The Christmas Challenges **Pastor**

P: In the quiet of the night
C: We accept a gift:
A personal act of faith;
Receiving God's charge upon us.

P: In the quiet of the night,
C: We are changed forever by our God and Savior
Christ Jesus, our Lord, who is God with us, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Time **Pastor**

Solo **"I Wonder as I Wander"** **Matt Burton**

Offering and Offertory

Your offering tonight will help support our emergency fund and the United Methodist Children's Services (UMCS) of the Wisconsin Conference. The "Pastor's Emergency Fund" enables us to be in mission and ministry on behalf of our congregation in our community by pay for assisting people who visit our office daily asking for help with their rent, bus, prescription, fuel/gasoline, etc. And, the UMCS Fund is used by our Conference to help needy families and children across Wisconsin, especially the Milwaukee areas. If you wish to use offering envelopes, they are available in the pews. Checks should be made out to Racine 1st UMC, but please indicate in the memo either "Pastoral Emergency Fund or "UMCS." Thanks for sharing your resources with our most vulnerable brothers and sisters during this season celebrating God's greatest gift to us and the world, The Christ-child!"

Offering Prayer

Offertory **"The Coventry Carol"** **Nancy Cook, Organist**

***A litany of Christmas**: Pastor and Congregation*
*P: In the quiet of the night, w*e have heard God's truth;
C: A personal word of life is given for our redemption.

P: *In the quiet of the night,* in the quiet of this night….
C: We are called to act. We are called to care, we are called to serve!
We are called to share a personal story of Christmas, a personal story of salvation.

P: In the quiet of this night….
C: God sends us to be the living faith:

a personal invitation,
a personal voice of hope,
a personal hand of service,
In our day-to-day acts,
In our day-to-day relationships.

P: May God grant that it be so. Amen!

Carols singing: One or two verses of the following hymns or other favorites of the congregation (# 217-Away in a Manger vs. 1; #218 - It Came Upon the Midnight Clear v.1 #245- The First Noel v.1; #219- What Child Is This vs. 1-2; #230 O Little Town of Bethlehem (1-2) # 251 – Go, Tell I On the Mountain (vs.1-2)

Sending forth in God's love and care - Pastor and Congregation
P: As you go from this quiet night into the chaos of this life and world,
May God bless you and keep you. May God's countenance shine upon you,
and grants you His peace.
C: Amen.

*** Sending Song: UMH # 239** ***Silent Night, Holy Night***

****All are invited to sing along with the choir in German to open****

(Pastor lights his candle from the Christ Candle, ushers light their candles from the Pastor's candle, the ushers take their lit candles to the first person in each pew to light their candle and share the light with others in their pew)

P: Go in peace and joy to honor God through faith and service.
C: Thanks be to God.

(Please extinguish your candle and put it in the basket(s) as you leave).
Postlude

(Adopted from: Lisa Frenz -Mt. Carmel Evangelical Lutheran Church, Poland, Oregon)