The Congregational Church of Westborough

United Church of Christ

Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2019 - 7:00 pm
CHRISTMAS EVE 2019
7:00 pm Candlelight Service

*The Congregation is invited to stand.

PRELUDE

BELL DUET

“Westminster Chimes”
Sue Menzel & Jen Keeler

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS!

Rev. Sue O. Remick

*CAROL HYMN # 148

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”
ADESTE FIDELES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Remick

Leader: Dazzling light on a dark night.
People: Angelic songs on a silent night.
Leader: Wonderful news!
People: Surprising Good News.
Leader: The promised Messiah is born!
People: A new Prince of Peace has come.
Leader: Rejoice! For on this star-bright, holy night –
People: The angels still sing!
Leader: They bid us seek the holy in the midst of the ordinary.
People: They call us to look into the eyes of a child and see God.
Leader: They urge us to sing and dance all the way to Bethlehem.
People: Rejoice! For on this star-bright, holy night, the angels still sing.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE (please be seated)

Readers: Ministers and Staff

People’s Prayer: (In unison)

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 great Love. In every corner of our hearts, shine this night with Your Peace. Amen.

People (sing): (Tune # 124 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence v.4)

At His feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim, with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry, “Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, God most high!”
PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You welcome us when no one else has a place for us. Your gifts reach us amid life’s deepest shadow, and Your light shows us new paths. Free our voices to sing with angels and our feet to run with shepherds. Open our hearts to ponder great mysteries and our mouths to glorify You! May Your Joy be made complete in and through us this very night! We pray all this is the name of the infant Christ Child...

THE LORD’S PRAYER (Debts)

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.

JOYSPRING ANTHEM “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen/We Three Kings” (see insert for lyrics)

CHILDREN’S GIFT

Rev. Remick

*CAROL HYMN # 147 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” ST. LOUIS

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:1-20 Pete Graham

CHANCEL CHOIR (see insert for lyrics) “Carol of the Bells” P. J. Wilhousky and, M.Leontovich

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION “The Christmas Visit” Rev. Remick

CAROL HYMN #143 “Joy to the World” ANTIOCH

CHRISTMAS PRAYER Pete Graham

A CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

(Tonight’s Christmas Eve offering will be used to support the ongoing Missions of our church such as Dismas, IHN, the Food Pantry and Youth Group Mission trips, Thank you for your generous support.

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS Pete Graham

Invitation: Let a band of angels watch over us, O Lord, lest we set our foot against a stone. Send them now, Lord. Send them now so that fear may turn soon to rejoicing. And let our gifts flow freely, as though borne on angels’ wings. In the name of the Child about whom the angels sing. Amen.

Let us demonstrate our joy through our generous Christmas Offering.

ANTHEM “O Holy Night” Adolphe Adam

Soloist, Heather Tryon
*DOXOLOGY (Unison)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;

*OFFERTORY PRAYER (Unison) Rev. Remick
Gracious God, we thank You for this season of carols and gifts, and for Your most precious gift of Jesus. We offer You our lives and these gifts: our hopes and our plans, our work and our play. May hope, peace, and love blossom from our gifts. Amen.

*CAROL HYMN #155 "Angels We Have Heard on High" GLORIA

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST Rev. Remick
As Christ comes bringing the light of God’s love, we light our individual candles to signify our individual and collective commitment to live as Christ’s faithful in the world. The light will be brought to the end of each row, TIP your UNLIT candle into the flame so that it may take hold. Please do not tip your lit candle! Pass the Light along your row until every candle is lit. As the candles are lit we will join in singing:

*CAROL HYMN # 145 “Silent Night, Holy Night” STILLE NACHT

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, shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing “Alleluia!”
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love’s pure light,
Radiant beams of thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth, Jesus Lord at thy birth.

As the lights are dimmed, let us hold up our candles...One candle is but a flicker, but together, we create a bright flame of Christ’s light in the world. Consider the beauty of our lights shining together. Christ is the light of the world and the hope of all our tomorrows! May we be witnesses of the light Christ Brings!

MOMENT OF SILENCE

BENEDICTION Rev. Remick

(Extinguish your candle and go in peace. Merry Christmas!)