

Prelude

Pam Kobbe

\*\*Hymn 234

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” (Vs. 1,2,5)

Lighting of Advent Candles

Leader: “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned... For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Emmanuel: God, you are with us. We have heard the promise. We remember Love, Hope, Joy, and Peace as we light the candles of Advent. The candle in the center of our Advent wreath represents Jesus Christ, the center of every Christian's life. We anticipated and prepared for his coming, accepted the invitation to be made whole through him, and trusted in his promise to be God with us. Now Jesus has come to illumine our darkness. He has come to bring the light of his love into our individual lives and into our world. Let us open our hearts to receive with joy the Savior of humanity.

As we light the Christ Candle we remember, God is with us. We are filled with Joy. In Christ is life, and that life is the light of all who believe. The light shines in our darkness and the darkness will never overcome it!

Leader: Let us pray. Illuminate our darkness, God of light and life. Move us beyond the hindrances that impede our way. Dispel the clouds that hide your glory and bring us into the light of your love. We need the peace you bring, and we long for the saving grace you offer. We praise you for the glory of salvation and we worship you with joy now and always. Amen.

A Reading from Luke 1:46-50

Special Music: “Heaven’s Child”

Ardis Grein

*A Reading from Micah 5:2*

*A Reading from Matthew 2:1-9*

Hymn # 230 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (vs. 1, 3)

*A Reading from Luke 2:1-7*

Hymn #219 “What Child Is This” (vs. 1)

*A Reading from Luke 2:8-14*

Hymn #240

“Hark, The Herald Angels Sing” (vs. 1, 3)

*A Reading from Luke 2:15-20*

Special Music: “Go, Tell It On The Mountain”

Benjamin Frahm

A Christmas Meditation

Pastor Kevin Gingerich

*A Reading from Matthew 2:9-12*

Hymn #254

“We Three Kings”

Offering (Please bring your offering forward, place it in the baskets, and receive a candle from the manger before returning to your seat.)

*Reflection:* This is the Christmas Story, a story that is not confined to a manger 2000 years ago in the ancient land of Israel - but rather reaches from the beginning of time to the very end of time - a story that John tells when he wrote:

*A Responsive Reading from John 1:1-14*

Leader: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**People: He was with God in the beginning.**

Leader: Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

**People: The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.**

Leader: There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

**People: The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.**

Leader: He was in the world, and though the world was made through him,

**People: the world did not recognize him.**

Leader: He came to that which was his own,

**People: but his own did not receive him.**

Leader: Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will,

**People: but born of God.**

Leader: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only. Who came from the Father,

**People: full of grace and truth.”**

Leader: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

This is the Word of the Lord. Praise be to God, our Emmanuel.

\*\*Hymn 239 “Silent Night, Holy Night”

(During the singing of Silent Night we will be passing Christ's Light. Please hold lit candles straight, and tilt the unlit candle toward the lighted one.)

Moment of Peace

Benediction

Hymn # 246 “Joy to the World” (vs. 1, 4)

Have a Merry Christmas!!!

Depart in Joy!

# CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP



**SHELDON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
LESSONS AND CAROLS  
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE  
7:00 P.M.**