

▲ LIGHTING THE CANDLES

As you pass the light to your neighbor, remember to keep the lighted candle upright and tip the unlighted candle into the flame. During the candle service we will sing all stanzas of Franz Gruber's beloved "Silent Night" at No. 239.

▲ CHRISTMAS BLESSING

POSTLUDE                      Improvisation on *A Christmas Carol*                      Charles de Mets

Acknowledgements

Our many and sincere thanks to all who have made this service possible. We owe much to the musicians, staff, ushers, greeters, communion stewards, and the Chancel Committee.  
Thank you!



For Unto Us a Child Is Born



LEHMAN MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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Christmas Eve 2018                      Noon: A Classic Service of Lessons, Carols, Candles, and Holy Communion

PRELUDE                      *Blessed Be That Maid Mary*                      Traditional English Tune  
Charles de Mets, Organist

▲ CHIMES

▲ NATIVITY GOSPEL                      John 1:1-14                      Pew Bible (NT), p. 91

▲ CALL TO WORSHIP                      Pastor Nancy Ludwig

Pastor: On this holy day, we come with the shepherds in stunned wonder.

**People: Glory to God in the highest!**

Pastor: On this holy day, we come with Mary and Joseph in hope and joy.

**People: Glory to God in the highest!**

Pastor: On this holy day, we come with choirs of angels singing glad songs.

**People: Glory to God in the highest!**

Pastor: On this holy day, we come to the manger in wonder, awe, and amazement.

**People: Glory to God in the highest!**

▲ HYMN                      *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (1,2,3,6)                      No. 234

OPENING PRAYER                      *Christmas*                      No. 231

INTERLUDE	<i>Away in the Manger</i>	Tune by Kirkpatrick
HOMILY	<i>All the Old Familiar Faces</i>	Pastor Bill Lentz
INTERLUDE	<i>Of the Father's Love Begotten</i>	arr. W. Douglas
LESSONS AND CAROLS		
First Lesson	Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19	
Carol	<i>Blessed Be the God of Israel</i> (1,2)	No. 209
Second Lesson	Isaiah 40:1-5, 9, 11; 7:14; 9:2	
Carol	<i>Love Came Down at Christmas</i>	No. 242
Third Lesson	Micah 5:2-5a	
Carol	<i>My Master, See, the Time Has Come</i>	No. 226
Fourth Lesson	Luke 1:26-38	
Carol	<i>Rock-a-Bye, My Dear Little Boy</i>	No. 235
Fifth Lesson	Luke 1:46-55	
Carol	<i>Infant Holy, Infant Lowly</i>	No. 229
Sixth Lesson	Luke 2:1-7	
Carol	<i>What Child Is This</i> (1,2)	No. 219
Seventh Lesson	Luke 2:8-16	
Carol	<i>While Shepherd's Watched Their Flocks</i> (1,2,6)	No. 236

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

No. 12

All the baptized are welcome to commune at this table of the Lord. If you are not baptized, but you desire to receive Jesus, then you too are welcome at this table. We ask that you seek us out for spiritual care. Holy Communion will be received by the method of intinction. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. You are invited to leave your offering on the plates on the rails.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, we confess we have shunned the light that reveals the truth about us and the world. We cling to worldly things and trust ourselves too much. Save your people, O God. Heal the sorrow within our hearts. Free us to live the gospel boldly. Hear our prayer for light and truth. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

GREAT THANKSGIVING OF THE NATIVITY FEAST

No. 17

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

**We do not presume to come to this your table, Merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord, who always delights in showing mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to partake of this sacrament of your Son Jesus Christ, that we may walk in a life renewed, may grow into his likeness, and may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen.**

BREAKING THE BREAD AND GIVING THE CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

▲ PROCESSION OF THE HOLY FAMILY TO THE NATIVITY SCENE

▲ BLESSING THE NATIVITY SCENE