

United Methodist Church (587-9544)
North Rose, New York

December 24, 2011
11:00 p.m.

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PRELUDE

“Fantasy on Christmas Carols”

Saxton

(In this quiet time before the service begins, as the organ music plays, everyone is invited to take some time for reflection and prayer, if you would like, and to light a candle in the front of the church in memory or honor of a friend or loved one.)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy, for unto us a child is born, and his name is Emmanuel, God-with-us.

People: God has comforted his people.

Leader: O come, all ye people of faith, let us go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which the Lord has made known to us .

People: Rejoice and be glad, for Christ is born today!

**CAROL (* invites all who are able to stand to praise God)*

*What child is this who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.*

*Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and lamb are feeding?
Good Christians, fear,
For sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.
So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king, to own him;*

*The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.*

SCRIPTURE Luke 2: 1-5 p. 889

Mary and Joseph journey to Bethlehem to be enrolled in the census

ANTHEM "No Room in the Inn" Thomas

SCRIPTURE Luke 2: 6-7 p. 889

The baby is born, wrapped in swaddling cloths, and laid in a manger.

CAROL (*please remain seated*)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed;
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay;
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes;
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky;
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

SCRIPTURE Luke 2: 8-14 p. 889

As shepherds keep watch during the night, angels proclaim good news.

CAROL (*please remain seated*)

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.

Glo - o - o - o - o - o - o ri a, in excelsis Deo!

Glo - o - o - o - o - o - o ri a, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?

Glo - o - o - o - o - o - o - o ri a, in excelsis Deo!

Glo - o - o - o - o - o - o - o ri a, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Glo - o - o - o - o - o - o - o ri a, in excelsis Deo!

Glo - o - o - o - o - o - o - o ri a, in excelsis Deo!

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2: 15-16

p. 889

The shepherds go into Bethlehem and find the Christ child.

HANDBELLS

"Nativity Medley"

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2: 17-20

p. 889

The shepherds return home, and Mary reflects on all she has seen.

CAROL (*please remain seated*)

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.

University; programs for disadvantaged youth; disaster relief in the U.S. & overseas; and training of pastors, missionaries, & church leaders. These are all made possible by our Conference's Benevolence Shared Ministries. Thanks for your generosity!

OFFERTORY

"Three Songs of Christmas"

Piano: Lucy Smith Organ: Jan McDorman

*CAROL What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him; give my heart.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

MESSAGE

"Christmas Prayers"

CANDLE LIGHTING *(please remain seated)*

(The Handbell Choir will play a verse of "Silent Night" and then the congregation will join together in song. During the singing of this carol, the flame, taken from the Christ candle, will be passed among the congregation. Remember that the lighted candle remains upright while the unlighted candle is tipped to receive the flame. Following the Christmas Blessing, before leaving the pew, please extinguish the candles.)

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 from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night,
Wondrous star, lend thy light.
With the angels, let us sing
Alleluia to our King.
Christ the Savior is born;
Christ the Savior is born.

THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Once In Bethlehem”

Schram

A special word of thanks to all those who donated poinsettias in memory of loved ones!

We heartily welcome all newcomers on this Holy Night. We hope you will return to worship with us again at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays. We invite you to the special Christmas Day service tomorrow at 10:30 a.m.

A word of deepest appreciation to all who participated in this evening's worship service. The gift of your talents has enriched our faith as a church family.

For our 10:30 a.m. worship service tomorrow on Christmas Sunday we invite anyone who would like to sing “Do You Hear What I Hear?” to join the choir. This is for kids, senior citizens, and everyone in between! Please come at 9:45 a.m. to practice with us. It will be an informal Candy Cane Choir—we welcome you to wear white or red tops (we will be seated with our family), no need for choir robes.

BATHROOMS are located downstairs on the opposite side of the dining hall from the kitchen.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS are located at the top (left hand side) of the double stairway to the sanctuary, to the left of the front outside doors, in the choir loft behind the pulpit, in the kitchen (north wall to the left of the window into the dining hall), to the left of the furnace room door, and at the top of the back staircase in the Sunday School area.