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PRELUDE “*Fantasy on Christmas Carols*” Saxton

*(Please pass the Fellowship Folders to those seated next to you.)  
(Large print hymnals and bulletins are available from the ushers.)*

CALL TO WORSHIP

*Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.*

**People:** God’s light shines in our hearts.

*Leader: Rejoice, then, you people, for tonight Jesus, the Savior, is born.*

**People:** He is the Light of the World.  
Let us journey to Bethlehem to worship him.

\*CAROL “O Little Town of Bethlehem”  
*( \* invites all who are able to stand to praise God)*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.

O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to all on earth!

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given;  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.

No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER *(unison)*

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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*(Marlene Francis, Alexis & Sierra Perkins)*

ADVENT WREATH SONG *(all)*

Light the Christmas candles now,  
Sing of donkey, sheep, and cow.  
Birthday candles for the king,  
Let the Alleluias ring.  
Candle, candle burning bright,  
Shining in the cold winter night.  
Candle, candle burning bright,  
Fill our hearts with Christmas light.

V1 At last it is Christmas Eve, the time when Jesus was born.

V2 Let us place the baby Jesus in the manger scene.

V3 And let us light all the candles on the Advent wreath.  
(*Light candles.*)

V4 The center white candle is lit because Christmas is here,  
and Jesus is the most special Christmas gift in the world.

V1 It is Jesus' birthday.

V2 It's a day to show love.

V3 It's a day to pray for peace on earth.

V4 It's a day to worship God, and thank God for all our  
blessings.

V1 Let us pray: Thank you, God, for all we have and all we  
share. Thank you most of all for the gift of your Son. Help  
us to share our love & bring us peace always. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Luke 2: 1-7 p. 889

Mary & Joseph journey to Bethlehem to be enrolled in the census.

ANTHEM "*Away In A Manger*" Choirchime Choir

(We invite you to reflect on the words printed below as you listen to the music.)

*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.*

SCRIPTURE Luke 2: 8-15a p. 889

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

CAROL (*please remain seated*)

The first Noel the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

SCRIPTURE Luke 2: 15-19 p. 889

The shepherds go into Bethlehem and find the Christ child.

ANTHEM "*There Is Room For You*" Junior Choir

SCRIPTURE Luke 2: 20 p. 889

The shepherds return home praising God.

CAROL (*please remain seated*)

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

SCRIPTURE Matthew 2: 1-2 p. 835

A star appears in the sky; magi from the East follow it to Jerusalem.

CAROL (*please remain seated*)

We three kings of Orient are;  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.

O -, star of wonder, star of light,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.

SCRIPTURE Matthew 2: 9-11 p. 836

The wise men find the baby Jesus in Bethlehem and worship him.

ANTHEM "*Were You There On That Christmas Night?*"

RECEIVING OUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING

OFFERTORY "*Angels We Have Heard on High*"

Piano: Lucy Smith Organ: Jan McDorman

\*CAROL

Come, they told me, (pa-rum-pum-pum-pum)  
A newborn King to see; (pa-rum-pum-pum-pum)  
Our finest gifts we bring (pa-rum-pum-pum-pum)  
To lay before the King, (pa-rum-pum-pum-pum)  
(rum-pum-pum-pum) (rum-pum-pum-pum)  
So to honor Him (pa-rum-pum-pum-pum)  
When we come.

Little Baby, (pa-rum-pum-pum-pum)  
I am a poor boy too; (pa-rum-pum-pum-pum)  
I have no gift to bring (pa-rum-pum-pum-pum)  
That's fit to give our King, (pa-rum-pum-pum-pum)  
(rum-pum-pum-pum) (rum-pum-pum-pum)  
Shall I play for you (pa-rum-pum-pum-pum)  
On my drum?

Mary nodded; (pa-rum-pum-pum-pum)  
The ox and lamb kept time; (pa-rum-pum-pum-pum)  
I played my drum for Him; (pa-rum-pum-pum-pum)  
I played my best for Him. (pa-rum-pum-pum-pum)  
(rum-pum-pum-pum) (rum-pum-pum-pum)  
Then, he smiled at me, (pa-rum-pum-pum-pum)  
Me and my drum.

MESSAGE

*"Home for Christmas"*

\*CANDLELIGHTING

(The Junior 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

*"Joy to the World"*

Handel

\* \* \* \* \*

Pastor: Rev. Dan Corretore  
Pastor's Office Assistant: Melissa Taber  
Organist: Jan McDorman  
Junior Choir & Junior Handbells: Lucinda Collier  
Lay Readers: Gabby Bailey & Emma McKown  
Greeter: Connie Van Norstrand  
**Aisle & Window Candles:**  
**Nursery:**  
Service Coordinator: Mike Virts  
**Lighting:**  
Church Secretary: Bertha Alderman  
Church Custodian: Brad Caves

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.

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

We heartily welcome all newcomers on this Holy Night. We hope you will return to worship with us again at 10:30 on Sundays. Please sign the guest book by the front door.

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

This evening's offering will be used for the missions and ministries of the United Methodist Church in our area, our nation, and our world. These include camping ministries at Casowasco & Aldersgate; outreach to the rural & urban poor through places like Syracuse's West Side Mission & Utica Neighborhood Center; college ministry on many campuses, including Syracuse 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!

Friendly NURSERY CARE for pre-school children is available anytime from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. It is located downstairs at the east end of the building. There will also be nursery care at the 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS are located at the top (left hand side) of the double stairway to the sanctuary, in the kitchen (north wall to the left of the window into the dining hall), and to the left of the furnace room door.

A FIRST AID KIT can be found in the kitchen on the east wall (left hand wall when facing the stoves).

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Little Christmas Candle  
Tiny as you are  
You cannot light the midnight sky  
Like Bethlehem's bright star -  
But shining in the darkness  
Your beams will mark a place  
The Lord will look on lovingly  
And touch with Christmas grace.