

Highland Park United Methodist Church

A Celebration of Christmas Eve with Holy Communion and Candlelight

Tuesday, December 24, 2013

7:00 p.m.

We Gather for Worship

Prelude Claudia Mornhinweg, Organist
Lighting of the Altar Candles

We Celebrate Together Through Song and Praise

* CALL TO WORSHIP

God of creation, shaper of seas and stars, of planets and people,
of sacred beauty and sacred being -

This God is here with us.

God, born in Bethlehem, gurgling, crying, laid in a manger -

This God is here with us.

God, breath of the universe, flickering, dancing in the candle flame -

This God is here with us.

God, Immanuel, Divine-in-Flesh, among us, within us

We bring ourselves and our dreams, for we want to be here with you.

* HYMN OF CHRISTMAS UMH
"What Child Is This"

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES.....Camille, Shannon, and Sarah DeYong

HYMN #230
O Little Town of Bethlehem

UNISON INVOCATION

O God, heaven and earth are met this day in the newborn Child, Savior of the world. We celebrate his birth; for in him you come to be close to us, that we might be close to you. We give you thanks for the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord. We thank you for the prospect of peace in our world, for the assurance of your love, for those who generously give and those who graciously receive, and for the church that helps nurture our faith. Be with us this night as we celebrate the birth of our King and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

We Hear and Sing the Story of Christ's Birth

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 96

HYMN #230
The Friendly Beasts

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 9:2-7

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION.....Rev. Jim Jones
"Sacred Being"

HYMN #217
Away In A Manger

We Partake in the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

The Great Thanksgiving/Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Communion MusicClaudia Mornhinweg

SPECIAL MUSIC Shannon and Sarah DeYong
"O Holy Night"

We Depart in Darkness with the Light of Christ

* HYMN OF CHRISTMAS EVE UMH 239

"Silent Night"

During the singing of "Silent Night" the sanctuary will fill with the warm glow of Christmas light. Please hold your lighted candle until you exit the sanctuary. As you exit, please extinguish your candle carefully. Receptacles will be available outside the sanctuary if you wish to leave your candle.

* SENDING FORTH

Mysterious God, confounding our expectations,
meeting us where we least expect to find you:

Stay with us now.

Child of the manger, sharing our humanity, loving in skin and bone:

Stay with us now.

Source of Life, birth of God within our own experience:

Stay with us now.

Stay with us in our beings, stay with us on our journeys

Walk beside us, live within us, lead us in love.

Postlude Claudia Mornhinweg, Organist

* - indicates that we would invite you to stand as you are able

We are so glad you have chosen to worship with us on this very special evening. The birth of Jesus Christ over 2,000 years ago in Bethlehem is still the most transformational event of our time. That story lives on each time Jesus Christ is born in another person's heart.

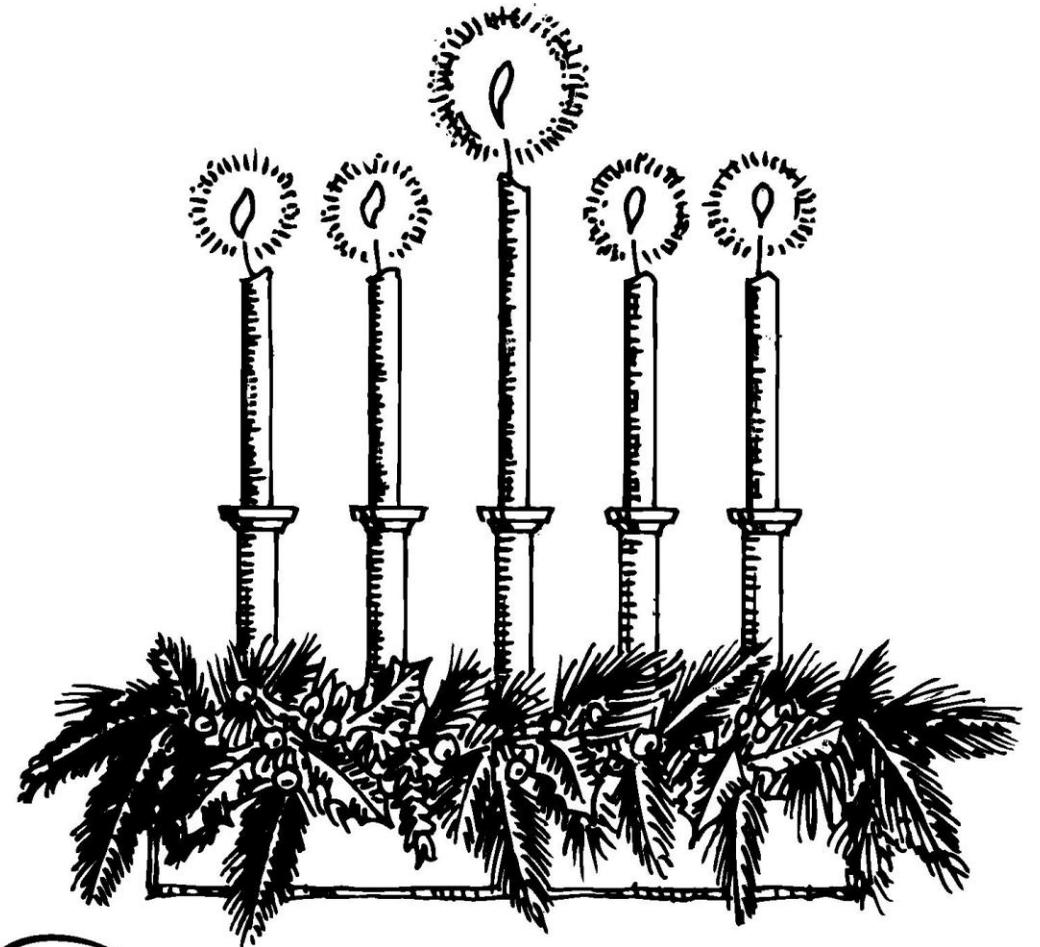
We want you to know that you are invited to share in holy worship with us each Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. with Sunday school classes for all ages at 9:30 a.m.

May God's grace and peace be with you on this evening and always.

— Rev. Jlm Jones and
the people of HPUMC

Liturgical Resources:

Call to Worship and Sending Forth: www.worshipdesignstudio.com



Christmas Eve

Highland Park United Methodist Church

524 N. Stallard, Stillwater, Oklahoma

December 24, 2013