



December 24, 2022

10:00 pm

*First United Methodist Church
Duluth, MN*



At the end of the service, the lights will be dimmed and candles will be lit. Both battery-operated and wax candles are available at the entrance to the Sanctuary. Pastor Jeanine will give instructions on how to "pass the flame."

Prelude *Sussex Carol (variations 1-4)* setting by Raymond Haan
Velda Graham Bell, organ

Greeting Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Call to Worship

One: We gather this starlit night to share good news and tidings of great joy!
All: Today, in the town of Bethlehem, a Savior has been born, Christ the Lord!
One: With the angels, let us sing our praises.
All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to all!

* **Carol** *Joy to the World* UM Hymnal 246; v. 1, 2, 4

Lighting of the Christ Candle Tina Farrell

Tonight is the Eve of Christ's birth! Our time of waiting and preparing has brought us here. We relight the candles of HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE. Tonight we light the CHRIST CANDLE as we sing together:

Light a candle bright and tall for the Christ we greet today. (sung to the tune of "Dix")
Christ has come, our all in all. With the angels, let us say:
Shine within our hearts today. Come, O Christ, to us, we pray.

Unison Prayer Pastor Jeanine Alexander

O God, you have brought us again to this very special night when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Tonight, let the words of Scripture tell us the old, yet ever new story. Let the carols take us back to see again the wonder and mystery of your coming. Enable our human minds to comprehend some of the glory of the divine event. In the name of our Savior, we pray. Amen!

Special Music *O Little Town of Bethlehem* Lewis H. Render, arr. Cathy Moglebust
Extollers; Bill Alexander, director

Scripture Reading Isaiah 9:6-7 Karen Alseth

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. Of the increase of his government and peace, there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and

Offering Pastor Jeanine Alexander
Special Music *Noël on the Flutes* Louis-Claude Daquin
Velda Graham Bell, organ

*** Offering Prayer**

*** Carol** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* UM Hymnal #234, v. 1, 2, 3, 6

Meditation *A Mission and a Manger* Pastor Jeanine Alexander

*** Carol** *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* UM Hymnal #224

Unison Prayer

Strong and tender God, one candle can pierce a thousand darknesses, one flickering light can kindle new vision, one voice on fire can set our hearts ablaze. Passionate and gentle God, you are the source of light and we are your many candles, each uniquely burning for you. Touch us. Light us. Warm us. Purify us. May a flame rise in us and burn bright in us this holy and fiery night. In the name of Jesus, the newborn king, we pray. Amen.

*** Carol of Blessing** *Silent Night, Holy Night* UM Hymnal #239

*** Benediction** Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Postlude *Sussex Carol (variation 5)* setting by Raymond Haan
Velda Graham Bell, organ



Thank you to:

instrumentalists: Stacy Carolan, trumpet; Derek Bromme, trombone; Michael Hintzman, timpani

ushers: Karen, Jeremy, Jacob, and Nik Jeannette

candle stewards: Marlene and Wes Berntson

Upcoming Worship Services:

Sunday, December 25 – Christmas Day at 10:00am (in person only). A simple service with carol singing and a special Christmas message from Geoff Bell.

Sunday, January 1 – 10am in person for an interactive Wesleyan Covenant Service to begin a new year, or watch a brief pre-recorded worship service on YouTube.

January 8 – February 5 – “Being Created Anew” sermon series, calling us to fully and completely accept and love ourselves and others.