

# *Christmas Eve Service*



*December 24, 2021, 7:00 p.m.*

*\* All who are able, please stand.  
bold print—all respond*

Prelude

Greeting

\*Opening Hymn

*The First Noel*

UMH 245

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

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

**People: those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.**

Leader: You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy.

**People: For a child has been born for us, a Son given to us; authority rests upon His shoulders.**

Leader: And He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**People: He will establish and uphold justice and righteousness**

Leader: from this time onwards and for evermore.

**ALL: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.**

Leader: David Landrum will now share what angels mean to him...

*Angels Among Us*

Prayer of Preparation

*Christmas*

UMH 231

**Eternal God,  
by the birth of Jesus Christ You gave Yourself to the world.  
Grant that, being born in our hearts,  
He may save us from all our sins,  
and restore within us the image and likeness of our Creator,  
to Whom be everlasting praise and glory,  
world without end. Amen.**

\*Hymn

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

UMH 221

Let us pray.

**Great God of love and light, we thank You now for the light of that special star over two thousand years ago that guided humble shepherds and learned wise men to the holy Babe. Lead us now, by the light of Your love, that we also may follow You to new life in Him. In celebration of the birth of our King and our Savior, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

Hymn Trio	<i>Away in a Manger</i>	UMH 217
	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	UMH 230
	<i>It Came upon the Midnight Clear</i>	UMH 218
	(First verse of each)	

Homily	<i>"In the Moon of Wintertime"</i>	Rev. Heaton
	Luke 22:39-45	

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer		UMH 895
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Special Music	<i>O Holy Night</i>	Kelly Henshaw
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Invitation to Holy Communion

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Lord's Supper & Offering

The Service of Lights

*Hymn	<i>Silent Night, Holy Night</i>	UMH 239
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\*The Benediction

Postlude

Please join in singing the refrain of hymn # 244 during the message. The oldest Christmas carol written in North America is believed to be *'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime*. Jesuit missionary Jean de Brebeuf wrote the carol, somewhere around 1643, while at Sainte-Marie among the Hurons. He wrote the carol for early Catholic converts within the Huron Confederacy to explain the Christmas story with characters they could better understand. In 1926, J. E. Middleton translated the hymn into English, which is based on the music of the French-Canadian melody Jesus Ahatonhia.

As we sing in the dim light of Christmas Eve, the retelling of the Christmas story brings hope and healing to those who struggle with the darkness of grief. There are so many memories and strong feelings surrounding our celebration of Christmas, it is important to allow people to express grief at this time of year. Lighting candles in the darkness is a powerful symbol of the power of faith, hope and love to call us out of the darkness and into his wonderful light. The offering this evening will go to United Methodist Commission on Relief. For more information on UMCOR, go to

[umcmission.org/umcor](http://umcmission.org/umcor)



Please wear masks

*Merry Christmas!*