

EBENEZER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4901 Woodbine Road

Sykesville, Maryland 21784

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www.ebenezerumchurch.org

Rev. Judith A. Emerson, Pastor

Linda Bange, Director of Music/Organist

December 24, 2024

8:00 PM

Christmas Eve Worship

WELCOME

Loving God, as we gather as a church family on this Christmas Eve, we thank you for the love that binds us together. May this time of worship bless us and fill our hearts with warmth and joy. May the spirit of Christmas bring us closer to you and to one another. We ask for your guidance and protection in the coming year as we faithfully follow where Christ leads. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

THE PRELUDE

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

ANTHEM

"Angels Alleluia"

Chancel Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing a new song to God, all the earth!

We rejoice, for the Christ Child is born!

Glory to God in the highest!

We see in a manger good news of great joy!

*OPENING HYMN *"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"* UMH No.240

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Loving God, in this Christmas Season of great joy, let us hear once more the message of the angels. Lead us, in heart and mind, to Bethlehem to see the Son of God lying in a manger. On this holy night help us to remember the needs of this world and lift our prayers for peace, justice and unity as we rejoice in the hope you bring, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Reader One

Isaiah 9:6

Congregational Response

Isaiah 9:7

Christ our joy has come near. Emmanuel, God with us, has come to dwell with us as a tiny baby. "His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this"

Reader Two

Lighting the Christ Candle

Sung Response

UMH No. 230

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

**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.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-20

HYMN

"Silent Night"

UMH No. 239

SERMON

"The Poetry of Christmas" Rev. Judy Emerson

ANTHEM

"O Holy Night"

Chancel Choir

OFFERING

Offertory

"Glory, Hallelujah"

Chancel Choir

*Presentation of our Gifts

*Doxology

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

UMH No. 221

**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.**

*Prayer of Dedication

O God, we give these gifts as we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child and we pray that the joy we feel in our hearts this holy night will overflow in unending service and praise. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*HYMN

"Joy to the World"

UMH No. 246

*BLESSING WITH DISMISSAL

*POSTLUDE