



NEW MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24TH, 2020 AT 7:00 PM



* **The order of service is** subject to change at the leading of **the Holy Spirit.**

Italicized Bold print invites congregational response in unison.

† Means you are **invited to stand** if able and comfortable.

Please invite your friends to join our worship services on Facebook & share our livestream.

ENTRANCE & PRAISE

You are invited to worship with us in the quiet of prayer, in the joy of song, and in the desire to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior Jesus Christ. Part of our mission is to be a place for all people. All are welcome here! Whatever your gender identity, age, race, religious background, economic status, sexual orientation, or condition of ability, we greet each other as beloved children of God.

CHRISTMAS EVE CELEBRATION

WELCOME

Pastor Marion & Pastor Sophy

GREETINGS

From Members

† **Call to Worship**

Pastor Marion

Leader: Christ is here on this night of nights

All: Christ is here indeed.

Leader: Christ's love has called us here.

All: Christ's love has bathed us in holy light.

Leader: Let's sing with the angels and celebrate with joy.

All: For Christmas arrives this night.

(The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020 p278)

OPENING HYMN: 240 "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" vs. 1

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

*Hark the herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled"
Joyful, all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With the angelic host proclaim:
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Pastor Sophy

Pastor Sophy: Advent hope moves us; Advent love leads us; Advent Joy stirs us; Advent peace stills us, that we might affirm our King Jesus. It is time we set flame to this Advent affirmation by lighting the Christ Candle.

(Light the Christ candle now.)

We believe that Jesus is the Son of God. He was born

of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea. He was the long-awaited Messiah whose coming was prophesied. The same Jesus lives today in our hearts. He deserves our highest loyalty and total commitment. In Jesus Christ our hope is fulfilled; our love is consummated; our joy is complete; and our peace is sealed. Rejoice, a Savior is born.

All: A savior is born, indeed. Joy to the world!
(Advent Candle Light Liturgy 2020, www.umcdiscipleship.org)

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Joy to the World mix”

CHRISTMAS PRAYER:

Pastor Marion

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

Pastor Marion

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Holly and Ivy mix”

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2: 1-20

Pastor Sophy

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

“Memories”

Pastor Marion

HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor Marion

CHRISTMAS HYMNS

#217 “Away in a Manger vs. 1 & 2
#245 “The First Noel” vs. 1 & 2

Away in a Manger

*Away in a manger, no crib for His bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay*

*The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the night sky
And stay by my side till morning is nigh*

The First Noel

*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!*

*They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!*

CHRISTMAS OFFERING PRAYER:

**All: With these gifts, O God,
Bring light to your people and love to the earth.
With our lives, shine light into the deepest shadows
And help us to share your love where it is needed most.
In your loving name, we pray. Amen**

CLOSING HYMN: #239 “Silent Night” vs. 1 & 2

Silent Night

*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*

BENEDICTION:

Go to be light.
Go to be love.
Go to bring Christmas hope to the world
In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
(The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020 p 280)
Merry Christmas to all. Amen

Go Now in Peace to Love God and One Another!

Note: Deep gratitude to our volunteers and staff members who make our worship possible, and to our congregants whose continued efforts help to keep our community safe from Covid19. We lift up gratitude for the collaboration involved in making this worship service happen for the glory of God and the delight of Creation.

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