

**December 24, 2021
SouthWest United Church**

Opening Hymn VU 60 O Come All Ye Faithful

Welcome

Lighting the Candles – Prayer

***In the sacredness of this space,
We listen to the quiet all around us
but, even in this quiet, there is the gentle stirring of spirit.
As we look into the flames of the candles of
Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, we see the warmth of our
community and know that we are not alone for in this quiet
place the flow of new life can be found.***

(The Christ Candle is lit)

***On this, the holiest night of the year, we are prepared,
open and ready to receive the ultimate gift
made know in the birth of the child Jesus....***

***The gift of new life for each and every one of us
God, fill us now with the presence of Emmanuel
Our God who is with us, this night and always. Amen***

Hymn VU 6 A Candle is Burning – (verse 5)

Call To Worship

From Isaiah 9:2 (The Message)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
For those who lived in a land of deep shadows there is light!
Starbursts of light! **For a child has been born-for us! The
gift of a son-for us! His names will be: Amazing
Counsellor, Strong God, Eternal Father, Prince of
Wholeness.**

Hymn VU 1 O Come, Emmanuel, vs. 1,3,5

Opening Prayer

Lessons and Carols

Luke 2: 1-5

(2 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.)

VU 64 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Luke 2: 6-7

(⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.)

VU 62 Once In Royal David's City

Luke 2: 8-14

(⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

VU 44 It Came upon the Midnight Clear

Luke 2:15-19

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

VU 74 What Child Is This

Minister's Words – The Light Through The Stable Door

Hymn VU 59 Joy To The World

Prayer of Hope and the Lord's Prayer

Benediction

As you bathe in the starlight of this blessed and holy night, may you be filled with the music of the angelic chorus, the faithfulness of the humble shepherds and may you gift all you meet with hope, peace, joy and love...Go, and tell the world that Christ is born!

Closing Hymn *Silent Night*

SouthWest United Church

December 24, 2021

Christmas Eve Service



"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. **Isaiah 60 -1**