

Christmas Eve Worship December 24, 2009

Gathering

"A People in Darkness"

Welcome, Greeting and Announcements

Rev. White

Opening Words

Rev. White

Advent Wreath Lighting

Leader: After counting the weeks of Advent, we have come to Christmas Eve.

People: We have been waiting for the light to illumine our darkness.

(Four colored candles are lit first and then the white candle, and reading continues.)

Leader: Through Christ, the true light comes into the world.

People: Shine into our lives, Lord Jesus.

Bidding Prayer

Bobby Dick (7 pm) & Ralph Gronlund (11 pm), Lay Leaders

Leader: We gather together to remember the incarnation of our Lord but first, since it would please Christ, let us offer prayers for our community and world.

Please join me now in prayer.

People: Lord God, open our hearts and minds to the truth that you are with us. Tonight we pray for those across Winchester and Fredrick County for whom this night is one of toil rather than celebration and worship. Grant that those working to ensure the public health and safety know your abiding presence. May those struggling emotionally feel surrounded by your gentle love. Bestow your healing mercies on those struggling against physical maladies. Give those struggling with addictions your power and strength. Allow the poor to be comforted by your servants on earth.

We also pause, in the midst of this sacred season, to reflect on the world that you created and for which your son gave his life. We pray for our armed forces around the world that they may be enveloped by your protective arms. We ask that, by your Spirit, their loved ones may be comforted as they wait patiently. Grant that the time will come when, "Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore." These things we pray in the name of the incarnate God, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Hymn "Come, Thou Long- Expected Jesus" #196 (UMH)

First Lesson: Genesis 2:15-17 (Creation and Sin)

Rick Ours (7 pm) Randy Moulton (11 pm), Liturgists

Hymn "In the Bleak Midwinter" #221 (UMH stz. 1-2)

Second Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-3 (The Promise of a Savior) Liturgists

Hymn "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" #216 (UMH stz. 1-2)

Proclamation and Response

"The Light Comes Into the World"

Third Lesson: Luke 1:26-31 (An Angel Visits Mary) Liturgists

Hymn "What Child Is This" #219 (UMH stz. 1-2)

Fourth Lesson: Luke 2:1-5 (Joseph and Mary Travel to Bethlehem)

*Hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem" #230 (UMH stz. 1-2)

Fifth Lesson: Matthew 2:6-7 (The Birth of Jesus) Liturgists

Sermon	“The Incarnation”	Rev. White
Offering		Lay Leaders
Offertory	<i>“One Small Child”</i>	Chancel Choir
Doxology	Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.	
*Hymn	<i>“Joy to the World”</i>	#246 (UMH stz. 1-2)
Thanksgiving and Communion	page 12	

Departing to Serve

“The Light Shines in the World”

Sixth Lesson: John 1:1–5, 9-14 (The mystery of the incarnation)	Lay Leaders	
*Hymn	<i>“Silent Night”</i>	#239 (UMH)

Closing Prayer and Blessing

All Praying: God of love and light, as we consider the mystery of the incarnation, turn us inward to your Holy Spirit. As we consider the nature of your divine power, turn us outward to the needs of this broken, but beautiful world. We pray in the name of Christ. Amen.