

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
UNION UNIVERSITY CHURCH
FESTIVAL OF LESSONS, CAROLS, AND CANDELIGHT
DECEMBER 24, 2022
5 p.m.

PRELUDE "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" *English Suite*

INTROIT "Comfort Ye My People" *from Handel's Messiah* MingRen Huang

GREETING AND WELCOME Pastor Louise Barger

PASSING OF THE PEACE
The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

* **CAROL #234** (*vss 1, 3, 6*) **O Come, All Ye Faithful**

CALL TO WORSHIP Sharon Smith
Worship Leader: Tonight we gather to recall the miracle and the mystery of our redemption through God's love.
People: Though sin drew us away from God, God never ceased to love us.
Worship Leader: The prophets brought a message of hope as they foretold the coming of a Messiah who would bring redemption, and justice, and peace.
People: God's love was made flesh in the birth of God's Son.
Worship Leader: In faith we celebrate the birth of the Child who will be a light to the world.
ALL: We open our hearts to celebrate the miracle of God's love.

UNISON INVOCATION
To You O God, we give praise and thanksgiving for your gift of life and light through the birth of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. We commit ourselves anew to being formed into his image and being his light in the world. In his name we pray. Amen.

FIRST LESSON – Isaiah 9:2-7 John Buckwalter
Isaiah prophesies the birth of the Messiah in Bethlehem

CAROL #211 **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

SECOND LESSON -- Micah 5:2-5 Kim Gayhart
Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem

A GIFT OF MUSIC "Candlelight Carol" *John Rutter* Community Choir

* **THIRD LESSON** – Luke 1:26-38 Peter Gradoni
The angel Gabriel appears to the chosen, therefore blessed, Virgin Mary

CAROL #219 **What Child Is This**

* **FOURTH LESSON** – Matthew 1:18-25 John Buckwalter
Matthew tells of the birth of the promised Messiah

CAROL #217 **Away in a Manger**

RESPONSIVE READING
Worship Leader: Tonight is the night for which we have been waiting.
People: For unto us a child is given; unto us a Savior is born and the order of the world will be upon his shoulders.
Worship Leader: With the birth of Jesus, our lives have been forever changed.
People: We are being transformed by his life and his message.
ALL: We light this candle to represent that Christ is truly the center of our lives.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

SOLO "O Holy Night" *Adolphe Adam, arr. Mark Hayes* Jesse Crosby

* **FIFTH LESSON** – Luke 2:8-18 Kim Gayhart
The shepherds make their way to the manger

CAROL #220 (*vss 1,2*) **Angels from the Realms of Glory**

* **SIXTH LESSON** – Matthew 2:1-12 Peter Gradoni
Wise travelers from the East make their way to the young child, Jesus

CAROL #254

We Three Kings

HOMILY

The Light of the World

Pastor Louise Barger

A GIFT OF MUSIC

“Jesus, the Light of the World” *American traditional tune, arr. by Elderkin* Community Choir

*** SHARING THE HOLY LIGHT** *Worshippers’ candles are lighted from the Christ candle*

*** CAROL #239** *(see bulletin insert)*

Silent Night, Holy Night

*** CHRISTMAS BLESSING**

*** CAROL #246** *(vss 1, 4) (see bulletin insert)*

Joy to the World

*** THE CHIMES SOUND AS THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IS CARRIED INTO
THE WORLD**

*** POSTLUDE**

“Hallelujah Chorus”

Handel’s Messiah

*** *Please stand as you are able.***

Tonight the congregations of Seventh Day Baptist Church of Alfred Station, KonXions Methodist Church, Alfred Campus, and Union University Church join in a community service of worship and celebration of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Rev. Stephan Crowell, Pastor of KonXions, sends his greetings. He is leading services for two other churches.

Rev. Ken Chroniger, Pastor of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Alfred Station sends his greetings. He is with family this Christmas.

239 Silent Night, Holy Night

1. 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.

2. 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!

3. Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;
radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

4. Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

246 Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

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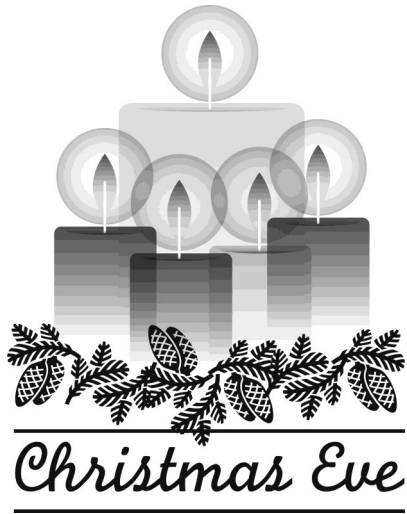
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PARTICIPANTS

Greeters – Heather and John Meacham

Ushers – Jim Ninos, Jan Porter

Media – John Buckwalter, Jim Ninos

Acolyte – Candy Zhou

Organist – Laurel Buckwalter

Pianist – Peter O'Connor

Guitarist – Peter O'Connor

Flute/Alto Saxophone – JD Struckmann

Soloist – MingRen Huang, Tenor

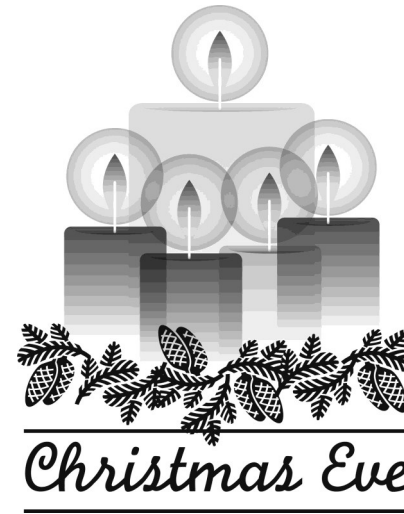
Soloist – Jesse Crosby, Baritone

Choir Directors – Luanne Crosby and Laurel Buckwalter

Worship Leader – Sharon Smith

Readers – John Buckwalter, Kim Gayhart, Peter Gradoni

Pastor, Union University Church – Rev. Dr. Louise Barger



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