

## **Serving Us Tonight**

Pastor: Rev. Ashley Whitaker  
Lay Leader: Laura Fritz  
Pianist: Kathy Byram  
Greeters: Hugo and Pat John  
Ushers and Communion Servers: Diaconate  
Christmas Eve Singers: Ron Conrad, Dawn Dietz, Dick Dietz,  
Pat John, Marissa Pfeffer, Sheila Samuelson

*The Sparkle Box: A Gift with the Power to Change Christmas* is written by Jill Hardie and illustrated by Christine Kornacki.

The *Lighting the Christ Candle Litany* is by Jeanyne Slettom at [processandfaith.org/resources/liturgy/advent-candle-liturgy](http://processandfaith.org/resources/liturgy/advent-candle-liturgy).

*Silent Night: The Story of the Christmas Carol* is based on the 1953 short film of the same name by Coronet Films.  
The background music used is *Stille Nacht* by Mannheim Steamroller.

*The United Church of Mapleton is a Christian fellowship of mission, worship, and faith formation dedicated to the Maple River community.*

**You are always welcome  
at The United Church of Mapleton!**

Sunday Service Times:  
9:00am - Worship in Sanctuary  
Children's Sunday School During Worship  
10:00am - Coffee in Fellowship Hall  
10:10am - Adult and Youth Sunday School

*The United Church of Mapleton  
201 Troendle Street SW  
Mapleton, MN 56065  
(507) 524-3141  
[www.unitedchurchmapleton.org](http://www.unitedchurchmapleton.org)  
[pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org](mailto:pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org)  
[secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org](mailto:secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org)*

# The United Church of Mapleton

## Christmas Eve Worship

Wednesday, December 24th, 2014

7:00 p.m.

### Prelude

### Welcome

### Invocation

*In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered.*

*Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.*

*(Luke 2:1-5)*

### Hymn

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” #180



### Reading

Dick Dietz

*Silent Night: The Story of the Christmas Carol*

### \*Hymn

“Silent Night! Holy Night!” #186

*While singing “Silent Night! Holy Night!,” we will light our candles from the light of the Christ Candle. The light will be brought from Christ Candle of the Advent Wreath down the center aisle.*

*To light your unlit candle, tip it sideways into the flame to receive the light. In this way, we will pass the light to each other down the pews.*

### \*Benediction

### Postlude

**\*Please rise in body or spirit.**



### **\*Lighting the Christ Candle**

Pastor: Hope, peace, joy, and love. Four candles, four promises continually offered to us by God, and all of them manifest in the candle we light tonight: the Christ candle. In Christ, we find the hope of transformation, the peace that follows justice, a joy that cannot be contained but must be shared, and the love that encompasses us in all our diversity, empowering us to make our own unique contribution to this world. In Christ, we find light, life, and the courage to be like him, answering his call and following in his footsteps.

*(Please keep silence as the Christ candle is lit.)*

One: Alleluia! Christ is born!

**Many: We rejoice in God's steadfast presence in our lives  
and in God's unique presence in the life of Jesus of Nazareth.**

Born of Mary, growing through childhood into the ministry of his adult years, in all his life manifesting the peace, love, and justice of God; his voice undimmed by the centuries, his call and his promise as clear to us as it was to his disciples so long ago.

**Come to us, Lord Jesus!**

**Be born in us this night, in our hearts, minds, and lives.**

**May the light of your life be kindled in us**

**and lead us to the shining truth**

**of God with us, Emmanuel, Jesus the Christ.**



*While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.  
And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands  
of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was  
no place for them in the inn.*

*(Luke 2:6-7)*

### **Hymn**

“Away in a Manger” #203

*In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping  
watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood  
before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and  
they were terrified.*

*But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am  
bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is  
born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the  
Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in  
bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”*

*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly  
host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest  
heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”*

*(Luke 2:8-14)*

### **Hymn**

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” #185



*When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."*

*So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.*

*But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.*

*The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.*

*(Luke 2:15-20)*

**Hymn** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" #182

**Children's Moment** *The Sparkle Box*

**Mission Moment** Marian Mallory

**Worship with Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory** Jack and Kris Madsen

"O Holy Night"

**\*Doxology**

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" #34

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.

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**\*Communion Service**

*At the United Church of Mapleton, the Communion Table is open to all without restriction. This is not our table, but the Lord's, and it is open to all of God's children.*

*Today, we will participate in communion by passing plates that contain the elements of bread and juice. Please hold each element until all have been served so that we may celebrate communion together.*

**Institution of the Elements**

**Preparation for Prayer** (Moment of Silence)

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

**Sharing of the Elements** Christmas Eve Singers and Guitarists

"Light of the Stable"

"What Child is This?"