

CHRISTMAS EVE
December 24, 2023 – 4:30 pm

Gathering Music

O Holy Night Adolphe Adam
Greg Matthews, cello
Susan Krechel, piano

Welcome and Greeting

***Call to Worship**

There is room for you here. If you're weary and worn, or hopeful and patient.

If you're tired and lost, or wrapped up in hope.

If you're new to this place, or have been here before.

Come in, come in. There is room for you here.

The angels are singing,

"Be not afraid."

The angels are singing,

"Good news and great joy!"

So come in, come in!

There is room for us here.

***Hymn**

O Come, All Ye Faithful UMH #234, vs. 1, 3, 6

***Opening Prayer – Candle Lighting Liturgy:**

How does a weary world hold onto hope, practice peace, spread joy, or know love?

How does a weary world combat cruelty?

How does a weary world shine a light into our bleakest night?

We do all these things with God's help. For tonight, a child is born in Bethlehem.

Tonight, Christ draws near.

Tonight, we light the Christ Candle.

Tonight, we are not alone.

God is near. Love has drawn close. Rejoice! For God loves this weary world. Amen.

Special Music

Twas in the Moon of Wintertime arr. Frances L. Callahan
Clarion Bells

Prayer for Illumination

Loving God, we have heard this story before – the story of a star in the sky and a baby who was laid in a manger. We have heard this story before as it was passed down in hopeful whispers through the generations. So this night, as we lean our hearts and our ears closer to you, we ask that you would make room in our souls to hear this story again. Make room in us for awe, for wonder, for heartache, for compassion, for you. We are listening. We are already making room. Amen.

Scripture

Luke 2:1-20
The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God!

Message

We Make Room

***Hymn**

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear UMH #218

Prayers of the People

The 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Special Music

Let the Stable Still Astonish Dan Forrest
Chancel Choir
Greg Matthews, cello See Insert

Invitation to the Offering

We believe in a God who makes room for us, and who call us to make room for others. May our offerings become gifts that share the good news in ways that say, "There is room for you here."

Offertory

While By My Sheep arr. Mark Hayes

***Offering Response** *O Little Town of Bethlehem* UMH #230, vs. 1

***Prayer of Dedication**

You, O God, have given us the greatest gift we could imagine – an infant king, a Prince of Peace, a model of room-making grace. In a world of closed doors and thick walls, use these offerings to make room for our neighbors and all those looking for a place to belong, that your grace and good news may be known in the world. Amen.

***Sharing the Light of Christ**

As the light of Christ comes to you, be sure to dip your unlit candle to receive the light. Once a candle is lit, it should always remain upright.

***Hymn**

Silent Night

See Insert

***Benediction**

Dear Community,
As you leave this place,
you go into a weary world –
So speak tenderly.
Do the good that is yours to do.
Choose connection. Hold onto hope.
And remember that Christ took on flesh for you.
You are God's beloved.
So go rejoicing.
The world needs it. Amen.

***Postlude**

What Child Is This?

arr. Robert A. Hobby



**You are invited to join us for the New Year's Eve Service
Sunday, December 31st at 9:30 AM**

Community United Methodist Church
14700 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove, WI 53122
Telephone: 262-782-4060 – www.cumceg.org
Pastors Kris Androsky & Bridget Case

Special Music

Let the Stable Still Astonish
Leslie Leyland Fields, Text

Let the stable still astonish:
Straw-dirt floor, dull eyes,
Dusty flanks of donkeys, oxen;
Crumbling, crooked walls;
No bed to carry that pain,
And then, the child:
Rag-wrapped, laid to cry
In a trough.

Who would have chosen this?
Who would have said: "Yes,
Let the God of all the heavens and earth
be born here, in this place."?

Who but the same God
Who stands in the darker, fouler rooms of our hearts
and says, "Yes, let the God
of Heaven and Earth
be born here -

in this place."

(over)

***Hymn**

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!**

**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.**

**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!**

(over)