

All people: Most gracious God, we give you thanks for inviting us to share this meal as your family. Strengthen us to be a blessing to one another, and a blessing to all the world, glorifying you in all things, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

As the sanctuary lights grow dim, Pastor Baker will light a candle from the Christ candle and then light the ushers' candles. The ushers will then light the candle of the person standing next to them; we will "pass" the light to one another in the same manner. Children may turn on their electric candles (twist the bottom) as the candlelight approaches them. Please be safe as you pass the light of Christ to your neighbor and as you extinguish your candle following the service.

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! Darkness flies, all is light;
Shepherds hear the angels sing: Alleluia! Hail the King!
Christ the Savior is born. Christ the Savior is born.**

**Silent Night, Holy Night! Wondrous Star, lend thy light!
With the angels let us sing, "Alleluia to our King!
Christ our Savior is born. Christ, our Savior is born!**

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Pastor: Today the Christ is born! Today a Savior appeared. The Light of God shines in the world. Sing praises. Shout for joy! Celebrate and go, now, in peace to do God's will.

All: *Thanks be to God! Amen!*

POSTLUDE

STARVIEW UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 24, 2023

11:15 PM

Word and Holy Communion



***THE TOLLING OF TWELVE BELLS SIGNALING CHRIST'S BIRTH and
BABY JESUS BEING PLACED IN THE MANGER WILL OCCUR AT
EXACTLY MIDNIGHT***

PRELUDE **Mr. Kevin Crone**

GREETING **Rev. Laura C. Baker**

GATHERING

Pastor: May the peace of God be with you.

Congregation: **And also, with you.**

HYMN *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (Verse 1) **Bulletin Insert**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Congregation: **A personal act of faith accepting God's charge upon her.**

All sing: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (Verse 2) **Bulletin Insert**

Pastor: In the quiet of the night a man becomes a father.

Congregation: **A personal act of faith accepting God's charge upon him.**

All sing: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (Verse 3) **Bulletin Insert**

Pastor: In the quiet of the night a baby breathes the air:

Congregation: **A personal act of sacrifice - God steps out of the divine into the ordinary.**

All sing: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (Verse 4) **Bulletin Insert**

SCRIPTURE READING **Luke 2:1-20**

CAROL *Do You Hear What I Hear* (Verses 1 & 2) **Bulletin Insert**

CHILDREN'S STORY WITH PASTOR LAURA

CAROL *Do You Hear What I Hear* (Verses 3 & 4) **Bulletin Insert**

HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor: Let us pray. With joy, we praise you, Gracious God, for you created all things. You created us in your image and kept covenant with us – even when we rebelled against you. Your prophets promised that you would send a Messiah - to do what we could not do ourselves - provide salvation. In the fullness of time, you sent your Son, Jesus, to be born of Mary: a light to shine in our darkness. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He ate with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw the world to him, yet we neglected to heed his call to walk in love. Then the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you. On the night before he died for us, Jesus was around a table with his disciples. Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, O God. He broke it and gave it to them, saying:

Congregation: **“Take and eat; this is my body, which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”**

Pastor: As supper was ending, Jesus took a cup of wine and said:

Congregation: **“Take and drink. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. As often as you drink this, do so in remembrance of me.”**

Pastor: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Pour out your Spirit on these your gifts of bread and wine and us. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your faithful disciples, showing your love to the whole world. Amen.

These are the gifts of God, for the people of God. Come, for all things are now ready.

DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS

*PLEASE, carry BOTH your CANDLE and BULLETIN
with you to receive Communion.*

*If it is comfortable to stand, please do NOT return to your seat,
but move instead to remain standing
along the outside walls of the sanctuary.*

O, Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love
O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King
And Peace to men on earth

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven
No ear may hear His coming
But in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive him still
The dear Christ enters in

O holy Child of Bethlehem
Descend to us, we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in
Be born to us today
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel

Do You Hear What I Hear?

Said the night wind to the little lamb,
do you see what I see
Way up in the sky, little lamb,
do you see what I see
A star, a star, dancing in the night
With a tail as big as a kite - with a tail as big as a kite

Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy,
do you hear what I hear
Ringing through the sky, shepherd boy,
do you hear what I hear
A song, a song, high above the trees
With a voice as big as the sea - with a voice as big as the sea

Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king,
do you know what I know
In your palace warm, mighty king,
do you know what I know
A Child, a Child shivers in the cold
Let us bring Him silver and gold - let us bring Him silver and gold

Said the king to the people everywhere,
listen to what I say
Pray for peace, people everywhere!
listen to what I say
The Child, the Child, sleeping in the night
He will bring us goodness and light
He will bring us goodness and light