


Providence United Methodist Church

Belong. Be Transformed.  Make a Difference.



Christmas Eve

December 24, 2016

11:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve

+ = Please stand as you are able

* = Words are projected

Pre-Service Music Janet Watts (piano) & Kate Watts (flute)

Welcome

Prelude

He Is Born: A Christmas Celebration
Michael Mercatante & Carla Wootten

arr. Gayden C. Skies

+ Greeting

Leader: It's Christmas Eve! How quickly this time has come upon us!

People: We are breathless. Still so much to be done.

Leader: Calm your spirits. Take time to hear the wondrous news.

People: Open our ears to hear Mary's story.

Leader: Believe in the good news!

People: We believe and rejoice! God's love is here with us! Amen.

+ Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

UMH 238

Prayer

First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

Thanks be to God.

Lighting the Advent Wreath and the Christ Candle

Pat Loud & Michael Mercatante

Response *

Second Reading

Luke 2:1-21

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Light of the World

Pastor Derrick Parson

Special Music

In the Village of Bethlehem

Stan Pethel

Service of Holy Communion

Invitation

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, you gave us the transforming birth of the child Jesus as a light for our path. Yet we confess that we have chosen to live in the shadows. We nurse

grudges and avoid resolution of conflict. We give up on praying for peace. We ask that your Spirit be renewed within us, that we may share your gifts of peace and justice with all people. We seek to receive and share the Good News of Jesus as announced by the angels. In all things, we desire to give glory to God in heaven and work for peace on earth. Amen.

Pastor: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are a forgiven people. Glory to God!

People: **Alleluia! Amen.**

+ The Peace

Offertory	What Child is This?	UMH 219
Response *	Refrain Only	

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving	UMH 15
Response: O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.	

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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Giving the Bread and Cup

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. You are invited to come with open hands to receive the bread and dip it lightly into the juice. Gluten-free wafers are also available as you come.

+ Hymn *	Silent Night, Holy Night	UMH 239
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+ Lighting of the candles (pass the light by tipping the unlit candle)

+ Benediction

+ Postlude	Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (Chorale from Cantata No. 147)	J. S. Bach
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Welcome to **Providence United Methodist Church**. If you are looking for a place to belong, be transformed by God's love and make a difference in the world, you have found it. If you want to know more about Providence and finding a more personal connection with God through Jesus, please contact **Pastor Derrick Parson**. You may reach him at the church (804-276-4289) or by email at: derrick.parson@providenceumc.net.

Restrooms are located on the main floor toward the chapel. A baby changing station is located in the handicap accessible restroom. A baby changing station and a play area (without attendant) is also available in the nursery on the first floor. Ask an usher for assistance. And thank you for silencing all electronic devices!

Tonight's **Christmas Offering** will go to local, national and world mission projects:

- Branches (our missionary outreach in Florida)
- A. M. Davis Backpack Program
- Pastor's Discretionary Fund

All cash and gifts marked "Christmas Offering" will support these important projects. Gifts in regular church offering envelopes will go to the operating budget of the church.

The New Year brings **new beginnings**. Join us for worship at 9:00 am for our informal Connections worship and at 11:00 am for a more traditional worship experience. Child care is provided. Study and fellowship is provided for adults, youth and children at 9:45 each Sunday.

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JESUS is
the *Reason*
for the 
Season.