


Providence United Methodist Church

Belong. Be Transformed.  Make a Difference.



Christmas Eve

December 24, 2016

7:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve

+ = Please stand as you are able

* = Words are projected

Welcome

Prelude The First Noel/Christmas Eve Waltz David Lanz

+ Call to Worship

Leader: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

People: And the Word became flesh and dwelled among us.

Leader: Do not be afraid; do not lose hope. See the angels come bringing us good news of great joy for all the people.

ALL: For unto all of us is born this night, in the city of David, a Savior, who is the Messiah, our Lord.

Leader: And his name is Emmanuel, meaning God is with us.

ALL: Let us rejoice in our eternal hope.

+ Hymn Once in Royal David's City UMH 250

Prayer

Lighting the Advent Wreath and the Christ Candle Emma Breeden
Advent Candle Response *

First Reading Luke 2:1-20 **Thanks be to God.**

+ Hymn It Came upon the Midnight Clear UMH 218

Second Reading Hebrews 6:15-20 **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Radical Hope Daniel Burch

Service of Holy Communion

Invitation

Prayer of Confession

Gracious and loving God, we confess that we have chosen to live in the shadows. But tonight we lift our candles of hope high as we celebrate the transforming birth of the child Jesus as a light for our path. 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 that starts with radical hope. We seek to receive and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ 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.**

Offertory Manger Medley arr. Mary K. Sallee
Response * UMH 219 (Refrain only) What Child is This

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

Solo Rose of Bethlehem Lowell Alexander
Emma Breeden, soloist

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.

+ Lighting of the candles (pass the light by tipping the unlit candle)

+ Hymn * Silent Night, Holy Night UMH 239
+ Benediction
+ Postlude Silent Night arr. David Lanz

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.