

## United Methodist Church at Shrub Oak

1176 E. Main Street, Shrub Oak, NY 10588

Pastor  
Music Director  
Organist  
Liturgist

Reverend Iwy Patel-Yatri  
Rob Gutowski  
Alex Shkoda  
Les Hazelton

### CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

December 24, 2017 - 7:00 p.m.

\*Congregation will stand, as able.  
Please turn off cell phones.

**Prelude:** "O Holy Night" Alice Fennell

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship:**

Augustus and Quirinius –  
ancient names that seem odd to today's ears...

**Characters in an ancient story  
that we long to hear.**

Nazareth and Bethlehem –  
distant towns we know little about ...

**Places our hearts long for,  
because of the One who traveled there.**

We gather together to hear once more,  
a story so ancient and yet so current, so distant and yet so near.

**We come to hear the story of God coming to us.  
O Come, O Come Emmanuel!**

**Opening Prayer:**

Prepare our hearts, O God, to receive the Christ child once more. Shine your light into the darkness of our world. Like the shepherds in the fields, who watched over their flocks by night, may we be stirred into action by the singing of the angelic chorus. Prepare our hearts, O God, to behold your precious gift in awe and wonder. Amen.

**Bell Choir**

\*Hymn: "O Come, All ye Faithful" UMH #234

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7  
Titus 2:11-14

Anthem: "To Touch His Tiny Hand"

Lighting of The Advent and Christmas Candles (Children w/ Lisa Grace & Rachel Pinto) #2090

Offering of Our Gifts

The Offertory: "What Child is This" UMH #219

\*The Doxology UMH #95

*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**

Great God our Redeemer, we sing your praises. Your glorious love shines in the face of Jesus, born a babe in this dark world. We marvel that he generously humbled himself to bring salvation. May our gifts and offerings reflect the light of Christ and, as beacons in the night, draw people far and near closer to you. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

\*Holy Gospel: Luke 2:1-20 Pastor Iwy

Pastor Iwy: The Word of God to the People of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

\*Hymn: "Angels We Have Heard on High" UMH #238

The Good News: Pastor Iwy

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer Pastor Iwy

The Lighting of Our Candles:

As "Silent Night" is sung, the lights will be dimmed, and the Pastor will light her candle from the Christ candle on the altar. Then Pastor will light candles of the candle-lighters gathered at the altar. They will light the candle of the first worshiper in every other pew. Light will then be passed from worshiper to worshiper. Please note: the lighted candle remains upright and the unlit candle is tipped to be lighted. Before leaving the pew, worshipers are requested to extinguish their candles.

\*Hymn: "Silent Night, Holy Night" UMH #239

\*Prayer in Unison:

"Light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it," proclaims the ancient word. Each of us hold a flickering candle; seemingly insignificant one by one, yet magnificent when held together. Tonight we make a choice to stand in the light; proclaiming the indisputable presence of unquenchable light. We light the Christ candle to remind us that the light of the world was born this night. Light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it! Amen.

**Benediction:** Pastor Iwy

Go now in wonder. Go to bring light to those in darkness, joy to those who can find joy, magic to a world steeped in realism. Go with the songs of angels in your ears, and the love of God in your hearts. Go and spread the word – the babe in Bethlehem is born for all! Go in peace.

*Join us on next Sunday, 10:30 am, as we celebrate with a service of Lessons and Carols!*

Your gift of "My Christmas Offering" will be used for the mission and ministries of our Church.

Please note: Luminaries assembled by Billy Ryder for his confirmation project and dedicated in memory of "Poppy".

We welcome all visitors and are happy you chose our church to worship. Please fill out the visitor card in the pews and indicate if you would like the Pastor to call on you. If you are interested in joining our church, please talk to Maxine Haigh, Pastor Iwy or call the office. **Attention, parents of young children:** On the back shelf, there are liturgical activity sheets for the children that are linked with morning worship. Please feel free to get one for your child.

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In case of emergency, Pastor Iwy's Home Phone: (914) 245-3114