

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
Marilyn Bucher

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

December 24, 2018 – 7:00 pm

*Please rise in body and/or spirit.

Please take time to greet and welcome each other in the name of Jesus Christ.

“Abide in Me”...“Love One Another”...“Bear Fruit”

Prelude “O Holy Night” **Alice Fennell**

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship:

The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Too long have we dwelt in darkness.

Too long have our eyes beheld only shadow.

Those who lived in a land of deep darkness –
on them light has shined. ...

A child has been born for us.

God’s own son has been given to us.

We will call him Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

We come to hear the story of God coming to us.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel!

Opening Prayer (In Unison):

Prepare our hearts, O God, to receive the Christ child once more. Shine your light into the darkness of our world. Shine your glory into the shadows of our lives. May your Holy Spirit move us from where we are to seek the Christ child this night. Prepare our hearts, O God to behold your precious gift in awe and wonder. Amen.

Bell Choir

***Opening Hymn:** “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (Verses 1, 2, & 6) **UMH #234**

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7 **Marilyn Bucher**

Titus 2:11-14

Anthem: “Run to the Manger Bed”

Lighting of the Advent Candles (Children with Lisa Grace & Rachel Ward Pinto)

Light the Advent Candle: (Verses 1-5) **FWS #2090**

Offering of Gifts and Tithes

Offertory: “What Child is This” (verse 1) **UMH #219**

***The Doxology**

*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**

Holy God, there are so many things to be thankful for tonight. Receive these tokens of our gratitude for your love incarnate in the babe of Bethlehem. May they become God-with-us for all the world. May they breathe magic back into a world that needs a sense of wonder and joy. In the name of Christ, our King, we pray. Amen.

***Gospel Reading:** **Luke 2:1-20** **Pastor Iwy**

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

People: Thanks be to God.

The Good News: **Pastor Iwy**

The Pastoral Prayer and the 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 ushers. They will light the candle from the center aisle of the first worshiper in every 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**

“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**

Walk in darkness no longer. Treasure the gift of Jesus’ birth. Go forth confident in the knowledge of God’s light and love surrounding you. Go in peace, for we have seen the salvation of God!

Join us 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.

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.

Please silence your cell phones during the worship service.

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A BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE!

Gospel Reading - Luke 2:1-20

The Birth of Jesus

2 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Shepherds and the Angels

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.