

**United Methodist Church at Shrub Oak - ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Christmas Eve**  
**Candlelight Service**

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** The Poinsettias on the altar are lovingly donated by our faithful Church families.

**GREETING**

**LIGHTING OF ADVENT AND CHRIST CANDLE** - FWS #2090  
(v.1,2,3,4,5) Rachel Ward, Lisa Grace

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

L: Good news! Unspeakable joy!

**P: A great light has burst forth,  
overcoming the darkness!**

L: A child is born for us—a son has been given!

**P: Bringing a kingdom of endless peace,  
we shall call him Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God!**

L: Come, let us see what God has brought us!

Let us see what the Lord has done!

Glory to God in the highest!

**P: And on earth, peace and goodwill to all! Amen**

**OPENING PRAYER:**

Holy One, you have appeared in the flesh, bringing redemption to all, your glory is made known in this newborn child, this living, blessed hope. Tonight we sing a new song—a song of justice, righteousness, and endless peace. Gift of God, beautiful Christ-child, we welcome you! Let love be born anew in our hearts on this joyous night. Amen.

**BELL CHOIR**

**OPENING HYMN:** “O Come, All Ye Faithful” – UMH #234 (vs 1,3,4,6)

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

Lord, we have lived far too long in dark places of our own making. We have walled ourselves in, shut the world out, and held ourselves captive to our fear and failings. Free us from this place, Lord. Return us to a life in your presence, where we may face the trials of this world with you by our side. Restore your light to our eyes, that we may behold anew your love in our lives. Hear us and help us, we pray. We wait in eager anticipation, for the glory of your salvation this night. Amen.

## **SILENT CONFESSION**

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

Rejoice and be glad: Your burdens are lifted, your captivity is ended! The Lord's great light pierces the darkness: breaching the walls of our prisons, revealing the way of true freedom. Light, love, and salvation have come to us this night. Christ is born, and with Christ, we are born anew! Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Isaiah 9:2-4,6-7 (KJV), Titus 3:4-7 (NIV)

**CHILDREN'S MOMENTS** – Rachel Ward and Lisa Grace

**HYMN of PREPARATION:** “Angels We Have Heard on High” – UMH #238

**GOSPEL:** Luke 2:1-20 (KJV)

**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE:** “Good Tidings of Great Joy”

**RESPONSE:** “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” – UMH #229

## **CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY:** “Special Music Selection”

## **DOXOLOGY**

## **PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER**

**CLOSING HYMN & PASSING OF THE LIGHT:** “Silent Night” – UMH #239

Pastor Sandy will light her Candle from the Christ Candle and Pass it to the ushers. The ushers will light the Candle of the first worshiper in each row. *Candlelight will be passed along each row from the aisle. Please tilt only the unlit candle as you pass the light down the pew. Please receive your light as a remembrance that Christ came as a gift to you. As the light spreads throughout our congregation let us remember that the light of Christ is reflected in each of our lives and shines forth as a beacon of hope to all the world. (Please ensure your candles are extinguished and placed in the tin bins as you exit)*

**BENEDICTION:** *Will Be Delivered by Pastor Sandy*

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

### **Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7 (KJV)**

<sup>2</sup> The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

<sup>3</sup> Thou hast multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

<sup>4</sup> For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian.

<sup>6</sup> For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

### **Titus 3:4-7 (NIV)**

<sup>4</sup> But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared,

<sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

<sup>6</sup> whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,

<sup>7</sup> so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

## **GOSPEL READING**

### **Luke 2:1-20 (KJV)**

2 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.

<sup>2</sup> (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

<sup>3</sup> And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

<sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

<sup>5</sup> To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

<sup>6</sup> And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

<sup>7</sup> And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup> And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

<sup>9</sup> And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

<sup>10</sup> And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

<sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

<sup>12</sup> And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

<sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

<sup>14</sup> Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

<sup>15</sup> And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

<sup>16</sup> And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

<sup>17</sup> And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

<sup>18</sup> And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

<sup>19</sup> But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

<sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

*The Poinsettias On  
the Altar are donated  
by the following members:*



Pastor Sandra Mantz and Family

"In celebration of the birth of Jesus, and in loving memory of our parents; Dr. and Mrs. Earle Biassey and Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Mantz"

Glen and Marilyn Bucher

"Given with love and thanksgiving for our family and our Church family"

Maxine Haigh

"In loving memory of my husband, Richard Haigh Sr.,  
And my parents, Eunice and Marvin Freid"

Bev Goodman

"In Loving memory of the Goodman and Harrington Families, and in honor of Hope and Lucas"

Glenda Rivera-Geis

"In loving memory of William W. Geis Jr., Della Geis, William W. Geis Sr., Rose Metzler, and Alfredo Rivera"  
and "In honor of Scott Martino"

Lynne and Hank Schrot

"In loving memory of our parents; Charles and Ingel Wallace and"  
Henry and Alma Schrot

The Casey Family

"In loving memory of Edna Klausman-Valentine and Marie Casey;  
amazing Moms and Grandmas"

Deborah Vesuvio

"In Honor, Praise, Glory and, most of all, Thanksgiving to Father, Son,  
and Holy Spirit; who bless me beyond merit. Some unseen, some  
unspoken, but none unnoticed"

Yvonne Chung

"In memory of Emma Crichlow and Bernice Thorney"

The Reynolds Family

"In memory of Carol and Anna" and  
"In honor of Grace and Betsey"

***(If you have donated Poinsettias, please take them home following  
the service as they do not last long in the cold)***

***Wishing one and all every Blessing of the Season; and may  
Peace, Hope, and Above All, Love Fill Your Hearts and  
Homes. MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL...AND TO ALL HIS  
GREAT LIGHT!***