

Unity Presbyterian Church

Saturday December 24, 2023

Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight Service

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candles (The Scott Beasley Family)

L. Come, all peoples of the earth and rejoice.

P. Let us come to Bethlehem and see what God is doing.

L. Come friends of God, and be amazed.

P. Let us come to the stable and see where God dwells.

L. Come, all who have despaired of God's presence.

P. Let us come to the manger and see that God is alive among us.

L. Come, all who have known darkness.

P. Let us come to the Christ Child, and see the light of the world.

***Hymn of Praise: SH # 64 "Hark, the Herald Angles Sing"**

***Prayer of Confession (in unison):**

On this night, O God-on this night we confess that we do not want to confess. We do not want to examine our hearts before you and admit to the dark places. We want you to warm us in candlelight, carols and communion. We desire soft light tonight; not the blinding shining of your glory that terrified the shepherds. We cannot stand in that light. God among us, forgive us. Help us hear your angel saying, "Do not be afraid." Flood our hearts with the light that drives out all our darkneses. Straighten our backs and loose our timid tongues that we might sing, "Glory!" (continue in silence prayer.) Amen

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Passing the Peace.**

**Those who are able may stand*

Hearing the Word:

OT: Isaiah 9: 2-7

NT: Luke 2: 1-20

Meditation "The Birth of Christ" CLP: Rebecca O'Dell

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Responding in Faith:

***Hymn of Adoration: SH # 58 "Joy to the World!"**

Communion and Candlelight Service

We will be taking communion tonight by the Elder handing you bread, please eat and take the cup and drink, leaving the cup in the tray.

Then take a battery candle and go by way of center isle to the back and come back around outside isle to form a circle.

***Song: Silent Night (first verse only)**

***Charge and Benediction**

We greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! If you are a first-time visitor this evening, we are excited that you have come to worship with us! We hope that you have encountered the truth, love, and hope found in worshipping the triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We would love to hear more about your journey to us. Please sign the visitor's book in the vestibule and welcome!
