

## PRELUDE

*Pam Campbell, organist*

## CHIMES/ BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

### \*CALLING US TO WORSHIP

*(The Advent Candles are lit at this time.)*

The Gospel of Luke tells what happened on the night when Jesus was born:

**When the angels had left them, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem, and see what has taken place, which God has made known to us." (LK 2:15)**

Our Advent candles representing Faith, Hope, Love, and Wisdom have been lit. Let us praise God!

**Amen!**

\***OPENING HYMN** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" #234 vs. 1-3

### OPENING PRAYER

**Loving God, you have come to us, not with great signs and wonders, but in a baby, who became a humble carpenter. You took on human form, not with the trappings of power and might, but among folk who fasted, prayed, and gave thanks in the midst of their poverty. You made your witness, not with devices of intimidation and coercion, but through an instrument of suffering and scorn. For your foolishness is wiser than human thought, and your weakness is stronger than all human powers. Grant that we may hear and respond to your wisdom, O God. Amen.**

### GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:1-20 KJV

**Song** "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" #218, vs. 1,4

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

#### MESSAGE

*with Isaiah 9:2-7*

Pastor Melanie

## CHRISTMAS INTERCESSIONS

Pastor: When the world was dark and the city was quiet, you came. You crept in beside us.

And no-one knew. Only the few who dared to believe that God might do something different.

Will you do the same this Christmas, Lord?

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Will you come into the darkness of tonight's world; not the friendly darkness as when sleep rescues us from tiredness, but the fearful darkness, in which people have stopped believing

that war will end, or that food will come, or that a government will change, or that the Church cares?

Will you come into that darkness and do something different to save your people from death and despair?

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Will you come into the quietness of this town, not the friendly quietness as when lovers hold hands, but the fearful silence when the phone has not rung, the letter has not come, the friendly voice no longer speaks, the doctor's face says it all?

Will you come into that darkness, and do something different, not to distract, but to embrace your people?

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

And will you come into the dark corners and the quiet places of our lives? We ask this not because we are guilt-ridden or want to be, but because the fullness our lives long for depends on us being as open and vulnerable to you as you were to us,

when you came wearing no more than bands of cloth, and trusting human hands to hold their maker.

Will you come into our lives, if we open them to you and do something different?

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

When the world was dark and the city was quiet...you came. Do the same this Christmas, Lord. Do the same this Christmas.

**Amen.**

## THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

In the days surrounding the birth of Jesus, shepherds didn't count for much. But God chose shepherds to welcome and honor Jesus. We light the Christ candle, the candle of Joy, to praise Jesus Christ, who comes to all of us, beginning with the least and the last.

*(The Christ Candle is lit)*

Living Christ, give us faith to trust you, hope to follow you, love to live for you, wisdom to know you, and joy to adore you.

**We trust you, we love you, we praise you. Amen.**

**CAROL** "Joy to the World" #246 vs. 1 & 4

## CHRISTMAS OFFERING

\***DOXOLOGY** *Advent Doxology*

\***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

## LIGHTING OUR CANDLES FROM THE LIGHT OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

"Silent Night" #239

## CHRISTMAS BLESSING

The peace of Christ goes with us as we leave this place. The light of Christ surrounds us as we go. The love of God was born among us; and has been rekindled in us here this night. Go in peace, to share the love of God with all you meet. We are sent in the name of Emmanuel! God is with us indeed! Alleluia! Amen.

## POSTLUDE



**Please join us, following worship, for cake and cookies to celebrate Jesus' birthday.**

## Christmas Eve Service

# 2018



## First United Methodist Church

740 West 11<sup>th</sup> St, Concordia, KS 66901

Church (785) 243-4560

Sunday Schedule:

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Fellowship

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Rev. Melanie Adams, Pastor