

**PRELUDE**

*Pam Campbell, organist*

**CHIMES/ BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

**\*CALLING US TO WORSHIP**

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

On this Christmas Eve, we light the Advent candles of

**Christ our Hope,**

**Christ our Way,**

**Christ our Joy,**

**Christ our Peace.**

**The world needs Christ so desperately,**

**We need Christ so desperately.**

**Come home to Christ this Christmas**

**We are here, Lord Jesus. We are yours.**

**Enter into our hearts once again, our Hope, our Way, our**

**Joy, and our Peace!**

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

**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.**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Isaiah 9:2-7**

**GOSPEL READING**

**Luke 2:1-20 KJV**

**CAROL** “O Little Town of Bethlehem” vs. 1,4 #230

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Pastor Melanie

**MEDITATION** “Come Home to Christ” Pastor Melanie

**CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

**Eternal God, Ruler of all worlds and Shepherd of the stars, whose glory is revealed in vastness and in power, yet whose secret name is Love; this is the time when we remember your gentleness, hidden in a mother’s hope and in the joy of a birth. This is the time when we believe again, if only for a season, that love is stronger than fear, peace more enduring than enmity, and that the darkness will never put out the light. And so, in this hour and this season, we offer to you the joy, the hopes, the dreams of children. We offer to you our gift of gratitude, and we make bold to believe that you have graced us with your presence, for we are gathered in the name of Love. Amen.**

**THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

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.'”

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

*(The Christ Candle is lit)*

Living Christ, our Hope, our Way, our Joy, our Peace...

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

**CAROL** "Joy to the World" #246

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

\*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**



**We wish everyone a Blessed Christmas, full of love, laughter and Joy. May your blessings be many and your faith be unwavering in the New Year.**



**December 24, 2019**

**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

Pastor's Cell Phone (308) 920-0917

E-mail: [concordia1umc@gmail.com](mailto:concordia1umc@gmail.com)

E-mail: [madams@greatplainsumc.org](mailto:madams@greatplainsumc.org)

Website: [www.concordiafumc.com](http://www.concordiafumc.com)

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Rev. Melanie Adams, Pastor