

The Community Gathers

PRELUDE, CHIMES AND BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

Tonight is a night of stars and angels, a night of shepherds and sheep, and a family in a stable. Tonight, a child is born to us, a son is given to us, and authority will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

*OPENING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

#234 (Verses 1-4)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Angie Gabel-McConkey LEADER: The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all while training us to renounce implety and worldly passions by living self-controlled lives.

PEOPLE: We wait for this blessed hope, and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior whose birth in a manger we celebrate today.

LEADER: From the lowliest of all places, that child's life would be given for us, to redeem us from all iniquity.

PEOPLE: The Christ child's life, death and resurrection purified us to be a people who would be zealous to live as God would intend we live.

SONG OF PRAISE	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing	#240
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OPENING PRAYER

O God our Creator, we celebrate the birth of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord, and we pray that just as he was born in a manger that he may be born in our hearts again this day, so we may joyfully welcome him to reign over us. Let us once again hear the angels sing and as our hearts are strangely warmed, may the warmth of this night reach our lips, so we may sing "Glory to God in the highest and on earth. peace, goodwill to all;" through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ADVENT HYMN

Light the Advent Candle Song (fifth stanza) #2090

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Thanksgiving

SCRIPTURE SENTENCE

"Give to the Lord, all families of the nations – give to the Lord glory and power! Give to the Lord the glory due his name! Bring gifts! Enter his courtyards!" ~ Psalm 96:7-8



TITHES, GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

SPECIAL MUSIC	"O Holy Night"	Renata Knox
*DOXOLOGY		#94

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious and always-loving God, your glorious love shines in the face of Jesus, born a babe in this dark world. We marvel that he generously humbled himself to bring salvation. How precious is your gift of love! Let the light in our sanctuary and our songs of praise spill through the windows to neighbors dwelling in darkness. May our gifts and offerings reflect the light of Christ and, as beacons in the night, draw people far and near closer to you. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Hearing and Responding to the Word SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 9:2-7 HYMN Away a Manger #217 (Verse 1) CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Angle Gabel-McConkey *GOSPEL LESSON Luke 2:1-20 AFFIRMATION The word of God for the people of God Thanks be to God. "Beyond Annual Rehearsals" MESSAGE Pastor Mark Crist

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

Service of Light and Carols

PRAYER

By the birth of your holy child Jesus, Lord, you gave us a great light to dawn on our darkness. Grant that in his light we may see light. Bestow upon us the Christmas gift of love to all people, so that we may best represent your son in the world today, and so our hope that life on earth may be as it is in heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMNS	What Child is This	#219
	Silent Night	#239
	Let there Be Peace on Earth	#431

*CHRISTMAS LITANY

LEADER: Christmas comes every time we see God in other people, whether we are in a manger in Bethlehem, in Times Square, the mall or Broadway Plaza.

PEOPLE: Christmas comes in the facing of warring and hate. No atrocity can stop it, no Herod strong enough to prevent it. No hurt deep enough to remove it. Christmas comes.

LEADER: Christmas comes when someone sees the star and when someone hears the angel voices. Christmas comes when someone runs to wherever is the Bethlehem of our day.

PEOPLE: Christmas comes when someone knows peace and goodwill that began with us.

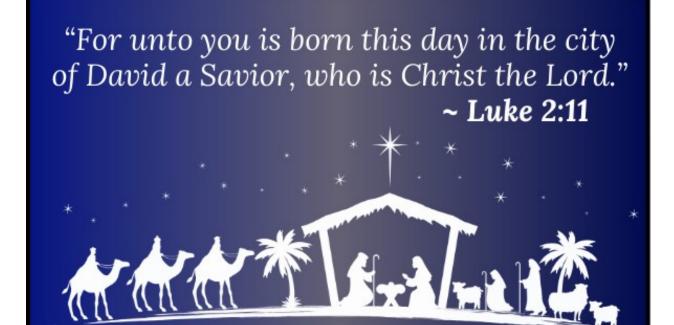
All: May Christmas come because the Christ was born anew in us today.

Going into the World to Serve					
*SENDING SONG	Joy to the World	#246			
*BENEDICTION					
*BENEDICTION RESPONSE	Go Tell It on the Mountain	#251 (First stanza only)			
POSTLUDE AND TAKING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD					

SERMON SERIES: "Going a Different Way"

- JANUARY 7TH ~ AFTER VISITING THE CHILD, THE WISE MEN GO A DIFFERENT WAY.
- January 14 ~ My Story: Going a Different Way.
- January 21 ~ Moving Forward; Discovering your way.
- January 28 ~ The Accountability of your way.
- February 4 ~ Following your way.
- February 11 ~ Seeing God guide your way.





December 24, 2023 Candlelight Service First United Methodist Church 740 West 11th St, Concordia, KS 66901 Church (785) 243-4560

> Office Hours: Monday — Thursday 9:00-4:00pm Friday Closed

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Do No Harm ~ Do Good ~ Stay in Love With God.