

Church of the Red Rocks - United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Faith Community

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2024

*Congregation standing in body or in spirit

WELCOME TO CHRISTMAS EVE

Christmas Eve is the great unifier, the opening of all doors.

*If you're not sure what to think or believe,
you've come to the right church.*

*If you're searching for loving inclusion,
you've come to the right community.*

*If you've stayed away, unsure of how to return,
you've come to the right service.*

Listen with your hearts, Christmas is almost here.

*** PROCESSIONAL HYMN** *"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him, born the King of Angels

***O come, let us adore Him. (3X)
Christ the Lord***

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest

Refrain

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

Refrain

*** LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE**

Because injustice and despair threaten to overwhelm us...
we pray for hope.

Because swords have not been beaten into ploughshares...
we pray for peace.

Because grief and loss weigh so heavily... **we pray for joy.**

Because hatred is still strong, and people all over the world are suffering... **we pray for love.**

Friends, be not afraid, even now God's light shines in the darkness and is not overwhelmed. Joy to the World!

We light the Christ candle this evening in the name of God Divine, the Christ Child born in our hearts today. Amen!

*** PASSING OF THE CHRISTMAS PEACE**

Jesus was born into a world torn apart by violence, not unlike our own. Peace is possible in our hearts and in our homes. May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also, with you.**

Turn to your neighbors and extend words of peace to each other.

MUSICAL OFFERING *"The First Noel (There Is No Rose)"*
arr. Michael John Trotta
CRR Chancel Choir

THE CHRISTMAS STORY Luke 2:1-7 Gayle Potter

CAROL *"Joy to the World"*
Joy to the world, the Lord is come; let Earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And Heaven and nature sing; and Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing

POETIC REFLECTION "Christmastide" Christina Rosseti
Margaret Gramley

MUSICAL OFFERING *"O Holy Night, traditional"* traditional
Mia Murray, soprano

THE CHRISTMAS STORY Luke 2:8-14 Margaret Gramley

CAROL *"Joy to the World"*
Joy to the Earth, the Savior reigns, let all their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy. Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy

CONTEMPORARY REFLECTION
"The Economics of Christmas" N. Mladin
Betty Morgan

THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING

THE INVITATION

THE OFFERTORY *"Who Would Think That What Was Needed"*

Bell & Maule

Suzanne Moore, organ

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

All things come from you, O God.

With gratitude we return to you what is yours.

You created with love and formed us in your image.

All that we are, and all that we have, is a trust from you.

Use us to bring love to this world.

In gratitude for all your gifts, we offer our waking lives.

Wherever we go, wherever we might be, may your Spirit
use us to bring peace to this world.

By your Holy Spirit make us one with Christ and with each
other, so we might bring unity to this world,
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY Luke 2:15-19 Jerry Ehrhardt

CAROL *"Joy to the World"*

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love,
and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

REFLECTION Rev. Dr. Guillermo Márquez-Sterling

MUSICAL OFFERING *"Repeat the Sounding Joy"*

arr. Susan T. Nelson

CRR Handbell Choir

THE GOSPEL John 1: 1 - 5 Abigail Wagner

CANDLELIGHTING

Share the Christ light with your pew neighbor.

Please tilt your candle toward the flame.

CAROL

“Silent Night”

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright.
Round young Virgin, mother and child
Holy infant, so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar.
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia.

(raise your candles)

Christ the Savior is born. Christ the Savior is born.

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

RECESSION

Please exit with your lit candle.

You may extinguish the candle at the door.

CAROL

“Silent Night” (verse 3)

Silent night, holy night. Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth. Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.

POSTLUDE

“Go Tell It on The Mountain”

Alec Wilkes, piano

