

Bethel Mennonite Church
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 24, 2015 7:00 p.m.

The Gathering of God's People

PRELUDE "We Three Kings" Maggie Maurer

WELCOME Pastor Dave

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

L: Emmanuel: God, you are with us.

P: **WE HAVE HEARD THE PROMISE OF THE PROPHETS;**

L: We have caught the notes of the angel's song;

P: **WE HAVE SEEN A STAR IN THE HEAVENS, WE HAVE BELIEVED.**

L: Tonight we have come to be with you because you have come to be with us.

P: **WE SEEK AN INNOCENT, HELPLESS BABY IN A CRUDE MANGER;**

L: We seek a Messiah who will reign with justice;

P: **AND YOU, WHO ARE THE WEAKEST AND THE STRONGEST,**

THE MOST HUMBLE AND THE MOST MIGHTY HAVE FOUND US.

L: Now we may find ourselves.

A: **NOW WE MAY LOVE EACH OTHER, NOW WE MAY TRULY WORSHIP YOU. CRYING ALOUD WITH THE HEAVENLY HOST: "GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST! PEACE ON EARTH AND GOODWILL TO ALL PEOPLE." AMEN.**

OPENNING PRAYER

OPENNING HYMNS

HWB #212

HWB #197

Bill Barrett

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" 1,3,4

"Angels We Have Heard on High" 1,4

The Light Revealed

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE Josiah Maurer

SOLO "I Need a Silent Night" Tesa Jordan

HYMN STS#22 "There were angels hovering around"

The Light Received

FIRST LESSON - Luke 1:26-35 Pastor Cheryl Shank

HYMN HWB #191 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

SECOND LESSON - Luke 1:46-56 Pastor Dave Maurer

SOLO "Breath of Heaven(Mary's song)" Beth Maurer

THIRD LESSON - Luke 2:1-7 Pastor Cheryl Shank

HYMN # 215 "What Child is This?"

FOURTH LESSON - Luke 2:8-14 Pastor Dave Maurer

HYMN HWB #199 "The First Noel"

HYMN HWB #199

“The First Noel”

FIFTH LESSON - Luke 2:15-20

Pastor Cheryl Shank

HYMN HWB #194

“Away in the Manger”

SIXTH LESSON - John 1:1-5, 9-14

Pastor Dave Maurer

HYMN STS #32

“Oh, beautiful star of Bethlehem”

The Light Radiating

LIGHTING OF CANDLES -

As we begin singing Silent Night, everyone who is able is invited to form one large circle around the sanctuary holding their candles. The pastors will light their candles from the Christ Candle. They will then light the candles of the people next to them. Each worshipper will in turn light the candle of the person next to them, keeping the lit candle upright and passing the flame around the room. At the end of the song, all are invited to extinguish their candles and depart in a spirit of joy and celebration.

HYMN HWB #193

“Silent Night”