

**Christmas Eve Family Service**

**Gathering in Expectation**

(▲ Please rise in body or in spirit)

Prelude: Carol Sing – please join in with the words on screen

Welcome

**Christmas Eve – The Gift of a Savior**

▲ Song of Invocation: **#6 A Candle is Burning**

Advent Candle Lighting – “Light of Hope”

Responsive Litany

Tonight we celebrate the one moment, the one birth,  
and the one life that forever changed the world!

**O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Because you came to us, we have experienced  
the ultimate hope to combat even the darkest moments.

**O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Because you came to us, we have seen the fullness of love  
to the highest degree.

**O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Because you came to us,  
we have seen the face of peace in its purest form.

**O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Tonight we celebrate your birth that unleashes hope, love, peace,  
and joy into the world from now until the day of your return.

**O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Candle Lighting (Lora Christopher & family)

Tonight is the night we have been waiting for, when waiting is transformed into awestruck wonder. We celebrate Jesus coming into this world and light all five candles. The **first** candle reminds of the ultimate hope that comes through our Savior’s birth. The **second** candle beckons us to the peace of Christ that surpasses all understanding. The **third** candle reminds us of the good news that tells us God’s love is stronger than human sin. The **fourth** candle invites us to share the joy of the shepherds and angels announcing the Saviour’s birth. The Christ candle reminds us that from the moment he took his first breath until the day of his glorious return, Jesus says to each of us, “Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

▲ Hymn **# 2 Come Thou Long Expected Jesus v 1,2**

Prayer

**Gracious God, your Spirit has led us throughout the days and nights of our Advent journey. Thank you for opening our eyes to see more of your presence in our world and in our lives. We rejoice in your ultimate gift of sending a Savior who has taught us the fullness of what hope, love, peace, and joy are all about. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Amen.**

▲ Hymn **# 2 Come Thou Long Expected Jesus v 3-4**

Pass the Peace

**Godly Play Nativity Story**

*(please sing along with words on screen)*

**O Little Town of Bethlehem (v 1,2)**

**Once in Royal David’s City (v 1,2)**

**Away in a Manger (v 1,2)**

**While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks (v 1,2)**

**We Three Kings (v 1,2)**

▲ Hymn **# 67 Silent Night**

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer

**We Offer Our Gifts**

The Presentation of our Offering ~ *What Child is This*

▲ Sung Response **VU 55 In the Bleak Midwinter (v.4)**

**What can I give him, poor as I am?**

**If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;**

**If I were a wise man, I would do my part;**

**Yet, what I can I give him – give my heart.**

▲ Prayer of Dedication

**We Journey Forth**

▲ Sending Hymn      **VU # 43 Go Tell It On the Mountain**

▲ Commissioning & Benediction

▲ Song of Dismissal: **# 7 Hope Is a Star (v.1)**

***Hope is a star that shines in the night  
Leading us on till the morning is bright  
When God is a child there's joy in our song  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong  
and none shall be afraid.***

▲ Postlude

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Tonight's bulletin was dedicated by  
The Cairns family in loving memory of  
parents/grandparents, Owen (Mack) and Phyllis Judge

**Mission Statement: Hope United is a welcoming,  
inclusive family of faith, committed to a life of love and  
serving God in the community and throughout the world.**

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