

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

December 24, 2019

5:30 PM

PROCESSION (please stand if able) *One Candle is Lit* Vs 1-4

Lighting of the Advent Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy & Love
Kel and Anthony Henderson, Jeanne Davenport, Melody Taylor, Robbie Arevalos

Please greet those around you after this song, and then be seated. Thank you.

CALL TO WORSHIP Malia Cary, Elder

One: Christ fills hearts full of hope by the birth of divine consciousness.

Many: We are a people of hope with a dream of healing the whole world.

One: Christ tells us to turn weapons of war into instruments of peace.

Many: We are people of peace who seek to be peacemakers.

One: Christ calls us to be full of joyful confidence in the reign of justice.

Many: We are people of joy, ready to sing songs of glad tidings.

One: Christ is cosmic creative Love, urging all toward compassion.

Many: We are people of Love united by God's unconditional love.

CAROL *Joy to the World*

GREETINGS Pastor Mike Holland

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER (UNISON) Pam Galera, Elder

We rejoice in Christ's steadfast presence in our lives, and in the life of Jesus of Nazareth: whose life and ministry manifested divine peace, love and justice, and whose call and promise is as clear today as long ago. Be born this night in our hearts, our minds, and our lives. And may the light of Christ lead us to the shining truth of God with us, for us, and in us. Amen.

ANTHEM *Go Tell It!* The Chancel Choir

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

Jennifer, Jason & Kaylee Surges

SPECIAL MUSIC *Christmas Time is Here* Monty Linton

CHRISTMAS STORY with Pastor Mike (children & youth invited forward)

ANTHEM *Sussex Carol* The Chancel Choir

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All worshippers are invited to participate. We partake of the bread as it is passed, then hold the cup so that we may drink as "one" at the direction of the pastor.

The Meditation & Prayer Pastor Kel Henderson

The Words of Institution, Sharing of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, Holy One, for renewing us at Christ's birth. May our faith be true and our love strong, that we may go forth in peace, freedom and justice. Amen.

CAROL *It Came upon the Midnight Clear* Page 131
Vs 1, 2 & 4

READING Matthew 2:1-6 Lara McKinley, Elder

ANTHEM *Angels We Have Heard on High* The Chancel Choir

HOMILY *The Power of a Story* Pastor Mike Holland
And the Recovery of Wonder

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

An offering will be collected for the ministries of Church of the Foothills

Special Music *The Rebel Jesus* by Jim Rosenquist

CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY

All are invited to process from the sanctuary to the patio area outside in joy and reverence.

Be sure to bring this program with you to have the words to sing. Let Christmas hope, peace, joy and love spread from our hearts to the whole world.

CLOSING CAROL

“Silent Night”

Congregation

**Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright,
Round yon 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 host sing Alleluia
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.**

**Silent night, holy night, Child of God, Love’s pure light,
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Christ at your birth. Jesus Christ at your birth.**

BENEDICTION

***WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!***

Church of the Foothills

United Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ

An Open and Affirming, Progressive Christian Congregation

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9:45 AM Sunday Worship & Classes for Youth and Children