

11:00 p.m.

Merry Christmas!

** Please stand as you are able*

Please take a moment to sign in using the gray registration book found in the pew pocket near the outside aisle.
Thank you for worshipping with us this Christmas Eve!

GATHERING MUSIC

***GREETING and PASSING OF THE PEACE** *(all reading the bold)*

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

***CAROL 234 vs. 1, 3, 4, 6** *(red hymnal)* “O Come All Ye Faithful”

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE *(all reading the bold)*

Hope, peace, joy and love. Four candles, four promises continually offered to us from God, and all of them manifest in the one candle we light tonight: the Christ Candle. *(The Christ Candle is lit.)* In Christ we find the hope of transformation, the peace that follows justice, the joy of self-fulfillment in community, and the love that encompasses us in all our diversity, empowering us to make our own unique contribution to this world. In Christ we find light and life, and the courage to be like him, answering his call and following in his footsteps.

We rejoice in God’s steadfast presence in our lives, and in God’s unique presence in the life of Jesus of Nazareth. Come to us, Lord Jesus. Be born in us this night in our hearts, our minds, our lives. May the light of your life be kindled in us, and lead us to the shining truth of God with us, God for us, God in us. Amen.

LESSON

Luke 2: 1-7 (NT, p. 58)

Against the backdrop of emperors and taxes, Jesus is born

CHORAL ANTHEM “I Would Sing of Mary’s Child”

Lovelace

Oh, I would sing of Mary’s Child cradled on the hay, and of the little birds that sang for him on Christmas day. Oh, I would sing of Mary’s Child who all God’s children reconciled. And I would sing a melody that echoes thro’ the land, about the little ones who came to touch his tiny hand. Oh, I would sing a melody before this Child on bended knee. Oh, I would sing of Jesus’ birth on that dear silent night, and of the little stars that shone on him with heav’nly light. Oh, I would sing of Jesus’ birth that brought great joy to all the earth.

READING “The First Coming,” by Madeline L’Engle

***CAROL 219** *(red hymnal)* “What Child is This”

LESSON

Luke 2: 8-16 (NT, p. 58)

The Prophet announces the birth of a King to a people in darkness

***CAROL 229** *(red hymnal)* “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

READING “Keeping Watch in the Night” by Joyce Rupp

MEDITATION “The Gift”

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving *(all reading the bold)*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

O God of wonder, we come to this table to be surrounded by the mystery of heaven’s radiance. Lift us from the ordinary, that we may be touched by things extraordinary this night, and with the choirs of angels join in praising:

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace, goodwill among all people!

We praise you for coming to humankind in ways we humans can grasp, for being born Child for all children, and living as the human One for all humankind, that all people may be redeemed through him.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

We thank you that by his death on the cross and through the triumph of his resurrection we are privileged to share now in the new life of his realm and at last to be united in the glorious company of all the saints.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray. Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell. O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

And now with the confidence of children of God, let us pray together:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Distribution of the Bread and the Cup

All are invited to partake in Holy Communion, which will be served by intinction. Please come by the side aisles to receive the elements and return by the center aisle to your pew. You may place your offering in the offering plates located on the small tables located at the front of both aisles.

Communion Anthem “Break Forth of Beauteous Heavenly Light”

Bach

Break forth, O beauteous heav’nly light, and usher in the morning; Ye shepherds, shrink not with afright, but hear the angel’s warning. This Child, now weak in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be, the pow’r of Satan breaking, our peace eternal

Prayer after Communion *(praying together)*

We thank you, O God, for feeding us with holy mysteries that assure us of your being at one with us. Grant that the angel’s song may be continually on our lips and Christ’s light may radiate in our lives, that we may bear the good news of your love to a dark and waiting world. Amen.

SERVICE OF LIGHT

Light from the Christ Candle will be brought to the end of each pew. Please turn and pass the light to the person next to you, tilting only the UNLIT candle to avoid dripping. Please use the drip protectors to prevent dripping or injury.

Please continue to back

SOLO "O Holy Night"

*CAROL "Silent Night, Holy Night"
*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 hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!*

*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.*

*Silent night, holy night,
wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.*

*BLESSING

*CAROL 246 (red hymnal) "Joy to the World"

POSTLUDE

LEADING US IN WORSHIP TONIGHT

Worship Leaders

Rev. John Boley, Rev. Julie Kline

Organist

Bernie Foulk

First Singers Accompanist

Miriam Downey

Ushers

Wendell Pierce, Roger Williams

Greeters

Don & Harriet Chalker
Nancy & Earl Hyde

First Singers Director

John Leeger

Soloist

Ian Boley

Audio & Lighting

Gordon Bundy

Christmas Offering

This year our Christmas Offering will go to help our congregation pay its Ministry Shares. Ministry Shares go to the greater United Methodist Church to help cover its many national and international missions and outreach ministries.

Welcome to First United Methodist Church!

212 S. Park Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007
www.umc-kzo.org

If you are visiting First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo for the first time or are visiting us for the holidays, we bid you welcome! If you are seeking a church home, please consider worshiping with us again and discovering more about the journey of faith offered to all by our loving and seeking God. Our upcoming worship schedule is:

Sunday, December 25	4:00 p.m. Worship (no Sunday School) Rev. John Boley "Customs of Christmas"
Sunday, January 1	10:00 a.m. Worship (no Sunday School) Rev. Julie Kline "An Invitation to New Life" A Service of Covenant & Renewal Holy Communion Romans 12: 1-3
Sunday, January 8	8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Worship Sunday School resumes @ 9:30 a.m. Baptism of the Lord Sunday Rev. John Boley "The Healing Waters of Baptism" Genesis 1: 1-5; Mark 1: 4-11

We are a Reconciling Congregation

First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo invites all persons to join us on our journey of faith.

Jesus Christ calls us to be an inclusive church that exemplifies the kingdom of God. We strive to move toward reconciling relationships with all, affirming those who are marginalized for any reason, including sexual orientation or gender identity. We welcome all with

open hearts, open minds, open doors.

Please visit our website often

www.umc-kzo.org

Have a Blessed Christmas!

December 24, 2011

11:00 p.m.

the Savior is born!

First United Methodist
Church
of Kalamazoo

212 S. Park Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
269.381.6340
www.umc-kzo.org

