



Fullerton First United Methodist Church
December 24, 2009, 7:00 PM
"THE CHRISTMAS STORY"

(* Indicates: Please stand if able)

PRELUDE Eddy Clement, Guest Pianist

WELCOME Susan Faber

* A CHRISTMAS LITANY "The Gift of Immanuel"

Leader: As the town of Bethlehem lay asleep, a gift was born in a stable bare.

People: **Bless us with your presence, O God.**

Leader: The light of God's Son came to bring joy and hope to a darkened world.

People: **Shine your light into our hearts, Lord Jesus.**

Leader: God blessed human hearts with his love and joy and wrapped his gift up in a manger.

People: **We receive the gift of Jesus, born to save us from our sins.**

Leader: To all who welcome Christ into their hearts, Jesus promises to enter in.

People: **Come, Holy Spirit, and abide with us forever, come, our Lord, Emmanuel!**

* HYMN # 234 "O Come All Ye Faithful (vs. 1, 2, 3, 6)

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE FFUMC Young Adults

Reader 1: On the first Sunday of Advent, we looked forward to Christmas day. We were also reminded of the day when Jesus will come again. Just as the people of Israel found hope in the promises of God, we find hope in Jesus' promise that he will come again. We light the candle of Hope.

Reader 2: We light this next candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world. With the coming of this light there is peace, for Christ is called the "Prince of Peace." Christ's name is also Emmanuel, "God with us." The presence of Christ with us gives us peace day by day. We light the candle of Peace.

Reader 3: John the Baptist was sent to prepare people for the coming of Jesus. He told them to repent of their sins and prepare their hearts for the coming of the promised Messiah. If we want to experience the real joy that Jesus wants for us, then we must learn to do the same! By sharing what God has so generously given to us, we will receive an even greater gift -- the gift of joy. We light the candle of joy.

Reader 4: The Bible tells us that when Mary found out that she had been chosen to be the one to deliver God's gift to the world, she was filled with joy. She sang a song glorifying God for choosing her. The Mighty

One has done great things for us too. He has sent us the gift of His love through his son, who we celebrate this night. We light the candle of Love.

Reader 5: On this night of nights the Promised One appears, full of grace and truth. For those who trust the power of God, a new way of living is made possible. Isaiah foretells it. Luke tells what happened. We are offered an opportunity to join the celebration, to go with the shepherds to the place where Love is born.

All (Unison): On Christmas Eve we are offered a sacred treasure.
 . . Let us come to the Light of lights.
 . . . Let us be upheld in hope, peace, joy, and love.
 Let us bow before the manger.
 Let us prepare to become good news in a weary world.
 May Christ be born in us this night, and forevermore.

UNISON PRAYER

Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light. May that light illuminate our hearts and shine in our words and deeds. May the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love represented by the birth in Bethlehem this night fill our lives and become part of all that we say and do. May we share the divine life of your son Jesus Christ, even as he humbled himself to share our humanity. Amen.

HYMN # 242 (Sing while seated) "Love Came Down at Christmas"

CHILDREN'S TIME "The Christmas Story" Kim Galea and the Children of our Congregation

HYMNS

- No. 230 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (vs. 1, 2, 3)
- No. 227 "Friendly Beasts"
- * No. 238 "Angels We have Heard on High"
- No. 219 "What Child is This"
- No. 246 "Joy to the World"

OFFERING "O Holy Night", by A. Adam Matt Ringer, Soloist; Eddy Clement, Pianist

PRAYER

CHRISTMAS SCRIPTURE Luke 2:1-20 Kathy Eaton

* CANDLE LIGHTING AND SINGING "SILENT NIGHT"

(Please all join in singing. Words on back of bulletin. When the light of the candle reaches you, tip your unlit candle to meet the lit candle offered to you. Please take care and watch dripping wax. Battery operated candles available for young children.)

SILENT 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 the 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!

. . . For to you is born this day
in the city of David, a Savior,
who is Christ the Lord . . .
You will find a babe wrapped
in swaddling clothes and lying in manger."

- Luke 2



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