



**United Methodist Church of Antioch**  
*Christmas Eve*  
December 24, 2023  
7:00pm

**PRELUDE**

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice/O Little Town of  
Bethlehem; In Dulci Jublio*

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Today                      Family Friendly Worship Service, 5pm  
                                    Traditional Communion Service, 7pm

Sun, Dec. 31      Worship, 9:15am

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

-Please Note: Pastor Katie will be on vacation following the Christmas Eve 7:00pm service through January 1. The office will be closed during this time. If you need pastoral assistance while Pastor Katie is away, please contact Beth Stahl, Jim Menzer or Cheryl Collins. Also, please know Pastor Katie turns her cell phone off while on vacation, so she will not receive your calls, voicemail, texts, or email until she returns. Merry Christmas to all, and let us rejoice in the birth of our Lord and Savior!

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

7:00pm service      Dan & Janet Fluck

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (Unison)**

*Spoken after Reader 2 “...our Emmanuel, God with us.”*

**We live as people in the in-between who celebrate the arrival of the Light that shines in lost and broken places as we wait for the day when we will live in the fullness of God's kin-dom.**

### **MISSION STATEMENT (Unison)**

**The mission of the United Methodist Church of Antioch is to grow in faith; to worship God following the teachings of Jesus Christ, and to be instruments of God's love through the Holy Spirit as we reach out to our community and the world.**

*\* Invites you to stand as you are able, or to sit with gusto!*

### **WE ARE WELCOMED TO WORSHIP**

**L:** We gather to celebrate the birth of Christ!

**P:** **There is always something special about this night.**

**L:** New life springs forth to remind us that small things bring amazing blessings, that hope comes even on dark days.

**P:** **Everything does seem possible in the glow of one amazing star.**

**L:** Jesus is born!

**P:** **Jesus is born! Alleluia!**

### **HYMN #246**

*Joy to the World*

### **OPENING PRAYER**

**On this night of all nights, we give you thanks for all that you have done for us, O God. For this Son of God and Son of Humanity who shared our earth, for this One who walked in our dirt and felt our emotions, for this One who changed the world forever, we simply say thank you. And now, O God, hear us as we pray as Jesus taught us ...**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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.**

## **HYMN #238**

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

## **WE ASK FOR UNDERSTANDING**

**Holy Child, the One for whom we have been preparing, we celebrate your arrival this night. We ask you to guide our thinking, our praying, and our hoping. Focus our eyes and ears in these moments as we hear your Scriptures read and interpreted so that we might have a greater understanding. May our time together with you help us all to be more prepared for your coming. Amen.**

## **WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS – Isaiah 9:2-7**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 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. His authority shall

grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

## **HYMN #240**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

### **WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS – Luke 2:1-20**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When the angels had

left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

L: The word of God for the people of God.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

**REFLECTION**      Glory to God in the Highest Heaven  
Rev. Katie Voigt

**SPECIAL MUSIC**      *My Grown-Up Christmas List*  
Jennifer Klingler

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**(Unison): Most merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

(Pastor): Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God’s love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**(Unison): In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.**

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION** *See Booklet*

**Hymns Sung During Receiving**

**#217** *Away in a Manger*

**#230** *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

**#219** *What Child is This*

**PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING** *See Booklet*

**OFFERTORY** *Jesus, King of Angels*

**\*DOXOLOGY #95**

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

**\*WE DEDICATE OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

**On this Christmas Eve, we humbly ask you, Emmanuel, to take the gifts we lay at your manger and use them for your benefit. Help us to share with those who you place in our path, expand our knowledge of how to serve your world, and help us to live faithfully where we go. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

**\*THE CHRISTMAS CREED (Unison)**

**I believe in Jesus Christ and in the power of the Gospel, which began in Bethlehem.**

**I believe in the One whose Spirit glorified a small village, of whose coming the prophets foretold, and for whom there was no room in the inn.**

**I believe in the One whose life changed the course of history; for whom the rulers of the earth had no power and who was not understood by the proud.**

**I believe in the One who, with love, changed the hearts of the crowds and with His life showed that it is more important to serve than to be served. Through Him we learned that the greatest glory is giving one's life in service to others.**

**I believe in reconciliation, forgiveness, and the transforming power of the Gospel.**

**I believe that Christmas is strength and love, and that this world can change, if with humility and with faith we kneel before the manger.**

**I believe that I must be the first one to do so. Amen.**

**\*SHARING OF THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

**\*CLOSING HYMN #239** *Silent Night* (vs. 1,2,3)

**\*CHRISTMAS BLESSING**

**\*CLOSING HYMN #239** *Silent Night* (vs. 4)

**\*POSTLUDE** *What Child is This*

*Red* indicates “The United Methodist Hymnal”  
*Black* indicates “The Faith We Sing”-OneLicense # A-739071

Thank you to tonight's musical accompanists:

Liam Klingler & Valerie Lapke, cello

Hannah Richards, flute

Quentin Gueffier, clarinet

Abby Klinger, alto saxophone

Owen Richards, trombone

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See us on Facebook!

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Music Director/Organist-Debbie Gillette  
Choir Director-Nicole Heyl  
Custodians- Michelle Mennes & Kelly Kiple  
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