

# Peace United Church of Christ



## Worship Resources for the Fourth Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve December 24, 2023

*Welcome to Christmas Eve Worship! We invite you to have worship near your tree, and if you have an Advent wreath, light the Christ candle as part of the service, and light other candles with your family as you sing "Silent Night."*  
*Merry Christmas! Pastor Betsy and the congregation of Peace UCC*

### Welcome

### Opening Hymn "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Angels, we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains;  
And the mountains in reply  
Echo back their joyous strains.  
Glo.....ria  
In Excelsis Deo,  
Glo.....ria  
In Excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, The newborn King.  
Glo.....ria  
In Excelsis Deo,  
Glo.....ria  
In Excelsis Deo.

### Gathering Prayer

*Glorious God, you present us  
with the most precious of gifts in Jesus.  
Tonight, we have come, our hearts ready  
to unwrap and discover, to stare in wonder,  
and to sigh in awe.*

*Work in our hearts this night,  
preparing us for what Jesus' coming  
will bring to the world.*

*Work in our lives that we may reach out from comfort,  
with compassion and kindness,  
bringing your light and your love.  
In faith and expectation we pray. Amen*

**Good News: Hear the Story of Christmas: Luke 2: 1-20**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

*Prayer: God, of Life and Light, thank you for coming this night to us. Thank you for touching all heaven and earth with your splendor. In every corner of the world, shine on this night with your peace. In every corner of our hearts, shine on this night with your grace. Amen*

**A Reading:** "As Joseph Was a'Walking" Old English Carol

**Hymn** "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold Him,  
born the King of angels;  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation;  
O sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!  
Glory to God, glory in the highest;  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.

**Good News: Hear the Story of Christmas: Matthew 2: 1-12**

**A Reading:** "The Little Grey Lamb" A.B. Sullivan

## **A Christmas Prayer**

### **A Story for All Children**

#### **Song            “The First Noel”**

Then let us all, with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
That hath made heaven and earth of naught,  
And with his blood mankind hath bought.  
Noel, noel, noel, noel, born is the King of Israel!

### **Christmas Candle Lighting**

#### **Song            “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 thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy  
birth.

### **Benediction**

#### **Song            “Joy to the World”**

Joy to the World! The Lord is come:  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.