

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

**Peace United Church of Christ                      December 24, 2017**

**SPECIAL MUSIC            Please hold all applause**

*“Tidings of Comfort and Joy”*

*“What Child Is This”*

*“In Heavenly Peace”*

*“Guitar Preludes”*

*“Carol of the Bells”*

**PRELUDE                      “Emmanuel”**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

One: Hope, peace, joy, and love. Four candles, four promises continually offered to us by God, and all of them manifest in the one candle we light tonight: the Christ candle. 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 church and to our world. In Christ, we find light and life, and the courage to be more like him. May we all strive to walk in Christ’s way and teaching.

**All: We rejoice, O God, in your steadfast presence in our lives, and in your unique presence in the life of Jesus of Nazareth—born of Mary, growing through childhood into an adult ministry. In all his life he bore witness to your abiding peace, love, and justice; his voice undimmed by the centuries, his call and his promise are as clear to us today as they were to his disciples so long ago. Come to us, Lord Jesus, be born in us this night, in our hearts, our minds, and 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.**

**\*HYMN                      “The First Noel” .....no. 179**

**\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**SOLO                              “O Holy Night”**

**OLD TESTAMENT            Isaiah 9:1-7    pg. 555**

**CHOIR ANTHEM              “Ding Dong, Merrily on High”**

**GOSPEL LESSON            Luke 20:1-20**

**pg. 832**

**MESSAGE**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**ANTHEM                      “Mary Did You Know”**

**THE GATHERING OF OUR GIFTS**

*“Good King Wenceslas”*

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE/Doxology.....no. 382**

**\*CANDLELIGHT SERVICE                      “Silent Night”**

*We invite the congregation to sing when the choir begins to sing*

**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.**

**\*HYMN                      “Joy to the World!” .....no. 171**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE                      “Joy To the World”**

*(those who are able please \*- stand)*

---

**Pastor.....Rev. William E. Hoch**

**Organist.....Mrs. Phyllis Sands**

**Altar Guild Workers.....Edie Graff and Dixie Schweitzer**

**Greeters.....Courtney Hall**

---

**May everyone have a joyous, blessed and Merry Christmas!**

We invite those who purchased poinsettias to pick them up after worship this evening.

We offer a special thank you to the musicians and vocalist who contributed their gifts and talents for this evening's service. Your sharing of gifts is what makes this service so special and meaningful! Thank You!