

Lacey United Methodist Church
2022 Christmas Eve Service ~10PM

Prelude

Welcome

***Call to Worship** **Rich Rosfjord**

Augustus and Quirinius—ancient names that seem odd to today's ears...**characters in an ancient story that we long to hear.** Nazareth and Bethlehem—distant towns we know little about...**places our hearts long for, because of the One who traveled there.** We gather together to hear once more, a story so ancient and yet so current, so distant and yet so near.
We come to hear the story of God coming to us.

Carol** ***O Come, All Ye Faithful UMH 234 vs. 1&6

First Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15; 17-19, 22:15-18

Rich Rosfjord

Carol** ***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel UMH 211

Second Lesson ~ Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Sherry Exel & Cynthia Pedemonti

Christmas Wreath Lighting

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Carol ***Hark the Herald Angels Sing*** UMH 240 Vs. 1,3

Third Lesson: Luke 1:26-35 **Judy Mihalkovitz**

Carol ***The First Noel*** UMH 245 Vs. 1,2

Fourth Lesson ~ Luke 2:1-20 **Rev. Campbell**

Message: "Don't Be Afraid"

Carol ***Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*** UMH 229

Fifth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-11 **Eric De La Cruz**

Christmas Offering Prayer

Holy God, as we gather this evening, all our attention is focused on a baby, lying in a makeshift bed in an "it-will-have-to-do" stable. It's not lost on us that you sent your

Son, our Savior, into the world among the poorest of the poor and told us: "This will be a sign to you." As we present gifts to you, we pray that they might reach those in the greatest need, that they might lift those in the deepest despair, and that they might bring peace and compassion to those who find themselves amidst conflict. We pray this in the name of that Holy Child, Jesus the Christ, our Savior and Redeemer! Amen.

Christmas Offering Carol ***A Christmas Hallelujah***

Prayer of Confession **Rich Rosfjord**

Holy God, you promised to do great things for us, yet we do not trust you. You extend your mercy to us, yet we do not trust you. You lift up the humble, you fill the hungry with good things, and yet we still do not trust you. Forgive us, and help us to trust in the promises you have given us. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

(Time for Silent Confession and Reflection)

Words of Assurance **Rich Rosfjord**

Even now—yes, even in this very moment, God comes to us, bringing hope, bringing forgiveness, bringing grace as freely offered gifts to us. May we open our hearts to the God who is with us, and receive the gifts which have been offered to us. Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

Passing of the Peace

Celebration of Holy Communion

The Lord's Prayer

The Breaking of the Bread and The Sharing of the Cup

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

As you come up to receive communion, please bring your offering and place it in the manger. After you receive communion, please take a candle from an usher and return to your seat.

Sixth Lesson: John 1:1-14

Lori Osborn

Candle Lighting

The ushers will light the candle of the individual at the end of the row, please light the candle of the person next to you, as you share the light of Christ.

***Carol *Silent Night* UMH 239**

Dismissal with Blessing

***Postlude *Joy to the World* UMH 246 vs. 1,4**

Pastor: Rev. Jonathan Campbell

Music Director: Dawn Slate

Head Ushers: Sherry Exel & Rick Waddell

Lacey United Methodist Church

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