

Lacey United Methodist Church
2023 Christmas Eve Worship Service 7:00 P.M.

Prelude *Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine*

Welcome

*Hymn *O Come, All Ye Faithful* v. 1,3 UMH 234

*Opening Prayer **Lori Osborn**

God of birth, God of light, in this time of song and prayer and silence, **reawaken in us the awe of Christmas.**

As we hear again the story of a young family and a surprising visitor, **remind us that we are called to respond to you in unexpected ways.** And when we leave this place,

may we be willing to sing praises for a young woman and man who said YES and the birth that we prepare to celebrate.

We pray all this in the name of the child and of our savior.

Amen.

Christmas Wreath Lighting **The Wioland Family**

*Hymn *The Advent Song* v. 5 FWS 2090

Scripture: Luke 2:1-16 **Dominic Gregoria**

Hymn *Angels We Have Heard on High* v. 1,3 UMH 238

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-11 **Leslie Weishaar**

Message: “Let’s Build Christmas Together”

Hymn *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* v. 1,3 UMH 240

Offering

Offering Hymn ~ *What Child is This?*

*Doxology **UMH 95**

Christmas Offering Prayer **Lori Osborn**

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.

Hymn *The First Noel* v. 1.2 UMH 245

Prayer of Confession **Lori Osborn**

In the middle of this season, I confess that I have focused too much on myself that I have focused too much on presents and that I have forgotten to think about the gift of Jesus. Forgive me, and help me to see myself in the story of Christmas.

(Time for Silent Confession and Reflection)

Assurance of Pardon **Lori Osborn**

Don’t be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you – wonderful, joyous news for all people.

Passing of the Peace

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Lord’s Prayer

The Breaking of the Bread and The Sharing of the Cup

The Prayer of Access

The Reception

As you come up to receive communion, please bring your offering gift for those in need and place it in the basket.

After you receive communion,

please take a candle from an usher and return to your seat.

Prayer of Gratitude **Lori Osborn**

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture: John 1:1-14

Dominic Gregoria

Candle Lighting

The ushers will light the candle of the individual at the end of the row, hold the lit candle upright while sharing the Light of Christ with the person next to you.

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

Dismissal with Blessing

Postlude** ***Joy to the World **UMH 246**

Pastor: Rev. Jonathan Campbell

Liturgist: Lori Osborn

Guest Musician: Maggie Realley

Head Ushers: Sherry Exel & Rick Waddell

Lacey United Methodist Church

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