Lacey United Methodist Church 2025 Christmas Eve Worship Service 7:00 P.M.

Prelude

Welcome

*Hymn O Come, All Ye Faithful (vs. 1,3) UMH 234

*Call to Worship

Through time and space, in the blink of the eye, the love of God stretched forth in the life of a young girl, asking that she be part of God's great plan of Salvation.

Her name was Mary. She was not of wealth or power.

She was a person, just like you and me.

Soloist: Sing verse 1 of "Star-child"

The Good News came first to the lowly.

Even today, we believe that good news often comes only

to the mighty. How wrong we are!

Duet/solo: sing verse 2 of "Star-Child"

In a world where hatred and fear was commonplace, the Christ Child would be born.

Fear and Hatred are far too commonplace in our world.

May the Christ Child come anew into our hearts today.

Choir: sing verse 5 of "Star-Child"

Christmas Wreath Lighting

Sweerus Family

*Hymn O Little Town of Bethlehem UMH 230

The Story of Jesus' Birth (Luke 2 1-20) Dominic Gregoria

Happy Birthday Jesus!

Message Rev. Jonathan Campbell

Hymn Hark! the Herald Angels Sing UMH 240

Offering

Offering Hymn ~ A Special Night

*Doxology UMH 95

Christmas Offering Prayer

Radiant God of holy interruptions, in the stillness of night and the chaos of our days, you slip into our world with glory wrapped in swaddling cloth. Like the shepherds, we come breathless, humbled, and hoping—to offer what we have. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and trust. May they help announce your peace on earth, not with trumpets and headlines, but with justice, compassion, and shared burdens. Let the offering we place here be the beginning of the offering we make with our lives in response to the child who changes everything. In Jesus' name, Emmanuel, we pray. Amen.

Hymn The I

The First Noel (vs. 1.2) UMH 245

Prayer of Confession

Burdens press us hard, O God. We yearn for harmony: with one another, among races and nations, and with the earth you have created. Where idols distract us from you and your marvelous works, help us make a change. Send us good news of great joy, we pray. Amen.

(Time for Silent Confession and Reflection)

Assurance of Pardon

Passing of the Peace

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Lord's Prayer

The Prayer of Humble Access

Lord Jesus, we don't come to you today because we're perfect, but because we need you. We're not worthy of your amazing grace, but we trust your endless mercy. Help us, like a small child receiving bread, to be filled by your presence. Give us the strength to live like you, to love like you, and to always know that we belong with you, so we can share your hope and joy with the world. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread and The Sharing of the Cup

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.

Prayer of Gratitude

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in 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

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.

*Hymn: Silent Night UMH 239 Caylee Sweerus

Dismissal with Blessing

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

Pastor: Rev. Jonathan Campbell
Liturgist: Rose Coram
Head Ushers: Sherry Exel & Rick Waddell
Music Director: Matthew Holmberg
Guest Musicians:
Jeremy Leighty, Dan McGrath,
Heather Meelheim, Bob Pentland,
Don Van Koppen, Melissa Van Koppen

If you would like to place a prayer in an ornament, please see an usher <u>before</u> or <u>after</u> worship.

Lacey United Methodist Church

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