

*Gathering Prayer

Lighting of the Christ Candle

**The light shines in the darkness and the
darkness cannot put it out**

**We light the Christ candle.
May it light the Way.**

Congregational Song:

O come, O Come, Emmanuel, UMH, 211
Worship Team, vs. 1
Congregation, vs. 2-6
Worship Team, vs. 7

Service of Scripture and Song

Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be they name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

First Scripture and Song:

Annunciation to Zechariah
Luke 1.5-25, NRSVue

Response:

**Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.
For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared
in the sight of all nations:
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel.**

Comfort, Comfort Now My People
Elaine Konyha

Second Scripture and Song:

Annunciation to Mary, Luke 1.26-38, NRSVue

Response

All is Well

Third Scripture and Song:

The Magnificat, Luke 1.39-56, NRSVue

Response

Chinese Lantern Carol, W&S, 3054

Fourth Scripture and Song:

Birth of John the Baptist, Luke 1.57-80, NRSVue

Response

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen, UMH, 3052

Fifth Scripture and Song:

Birth of Jesus, Luke 2.1-7, NRSVue

Response

Joy to the World, UMH, 246

Sixth Scripture and Song:

Shepherds in the Fields, Luke 2:8-20, NRSVue

Response

Away in A Manger

Keith Danielson & Sandi Kersten

Seventh Scripture and Song:

The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple
Luke 2.22-28, NRSVue

Response

In the Bleak Midwinter, UMH, 221, vs. 1, 2, 4

Final Reading:

The Word became Flesh & Dwelt among Us
John 1.1-14, NRSVue

Response

O Holy Night

*O holy night! the stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope- the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious
morn!*

*Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night divine, O holy night,
O night divine!*

*Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here came the Wise Men from Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our Friend.*

*He knows our need—
to our weakness is no stranger.
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!*

*Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break, for the slave
is our brother,
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus
raise we;
Let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever!*

*His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!*

Message Rev. Dr. Vaughn Thurston-Cox

Worship with Song & Reflection
The First Noel, UMH, 245

Lighting of the Candles

Hymn of Blessing *Silent Night*, UMH, 239

Benediction

Thank You for Serving

Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Vaughn Thurston-Cox
Musicians & Singers	Keith Danielson, Sandi Kersten, Ken & Elaine Konyha, Worship Team
Liturgist	Susan MacGregor
Readers	Ken & Elaine Konyha, Bart Zachrich,
Lighting of the Candles	Pastor Vaughn & Mark Trierweiler
Tech	Keith Danielson & Dan Girvan



Centenary United Methodist Church

The Breath of God in Community

December 24, 2023

Christmas Eve



Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

***Call to Worship:**
All people are welcome here tonight.
**We have gathered to hear the story of
Jesus' birth.**
All who walk in darkness,
come see a great light.
All who hope to see God,
**come see the glory of our savior,
Jesus Christ.**
All who are simply waiting to see what's next,
come see the good news God brings.
Rejoice before God in the light and
glory of this night.
**We rejoice that God's grace has appeared,
bringing salvation to all.**

* Please Stand