

REACH OUT IN CHRIST
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
DECEMBER 24TH, 2023 **6:00PM**

PRELUDE

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING Pastor Lee

Leader: Tonight, we light the Christ candle, the central candle of Advent. This flame represents Christ, the Light of the World, who has come to dwell among us. As the Gospel of John declares:

Scripture: "And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)

Leader: Let this light remind us that Christ is here, bringing hope, peace, joy, and love to all.

All: O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.

WELCOME

CAROL - #240 "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Light the lamps, prepare the room, God is coming to us!

People: Make our hearts and spirits ready to receive God's most gracious gift, God's Son, Jesus Christ.

Liturgist: Push the darkness away. The light is truly coming!

People: May God's light shine on us, in us and through us that God's glory may be seen. AMEN.

PRAYER

Gracious God, With joy and gratitude, we gather as Your people to hear once again the timeless story of Christ's birth. In the excitement of this night, quiet our hearts that we may know the peace and fullness of this holy time. Shine, O Light, in the darkness of our world. Let the angels sing in the stillness of our

hearts, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those God favors." We pray in the name of the Child of Bethlehem. Amen.

FIRST LESSON Dan Thomas
Genesis 3:8-15 NASB – The Fall of Humanity

SONG - "A Thrill of Hope" (Joel Raney) Choir

SECOND LESSON Linda Kaucher
Genesis 22:15-18 NASB – The Promise to Abraham

CAROL - #211 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

THIRD LESSON Jean Ann Lewis
Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 NASB – The Prophecy of the Messiah

HANDBELLS - "What Child is This" J.Simpson, K.Cooper

FOURTH LESSON Steve Bianco
Isaiah 11:1-9 NASB – The Branch from Jesse

CAROL - #230 O Little Town of Bethlehem

RECEIVING OF OFFERING - Doxology #95
(You may use this QR code to make online offerings)



FIFTH LESSON Belinda Hill
Luke 1:26-38 NASB – The Annunciation to Mary

SOLO - "Breath of Heaven" Ruthie Nelson

SIXTH LESSON Suzie Russell
Luke 2:1-7 NASB – The Birth of Jesus

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT Sunday School
SOLO - "Beautiful December" Ella Nelson

SEVENTH LESSON
Luke 2:8-16 NASB – The Shepherds Visit

Bill Koah

CAROL - #245 “The First Noel”

EIGHTH LESSON
Matthew 2:1-12 NASB – The Visit of the Wise Men

Carla Kranz

SONG - “A Thrill of Hope” (Joel Raney)

Choir

NINTH LESSON
John 1:1-14 NASB – The Word Became Flesh

Greg Smith

CAROL - #239 “Silent Night, Holy Night”

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastor Lee

POSTLUDE

CIRCLE OF PRAYER—Sandra Buck, Charlie Monroe, Brenda and Mike Smeby, Lettie Witt, Rod and Michelle Bailey, Rita Harned, Starla Knox, Tom Miller, Ramona Vaughn, Susan (Kay Cooper’s friend), Ainsworth Brown, Joann & Tony Bolt, Pat McDowell, Joan Klingensmith, Kathi Belcher, George Kranz.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***ALTAR FLOWERS**—New signup chart in the Narthex. Please choose a date if you would like to dedicate the altar flowers for Sunday worship to someone. They are \$30. Please mark your envelope/check “flowers”. Contact the office to let us know in whose memory/honor they are.

***FUMC DIRECTORY UPDATE**—Please let the office know if your address, phone number, or email has changed. If you wish you can also submit a new picture. We will print a new directory in January 2025.

***CRAFT GROUP**—Mondays 12:30pm.

***BIBLE STUDY**—Next meeting Wednesday, 1/8/25.

***PRAYER GATHERING**—Next meeting 1/15/2025.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEW PORT RICHEY, FL



*Making Disciples of Jesus Christ
And Transforming the World*



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