

Elkton United Methodist Church
Tuesday, December 24, 2019
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
7:00 p.m. † 9:00 p.m.

- ▶ Before the service begins, please give your white prayer request card to an usher.
 - ▶ Please see an usher if you would like to have a large print bulletin or hymnal.
 - ▶ All worshipers are asked to sign the attendance register. If you are a guest, please fill out all the information. As the register is passed back down the pew, make note of those sitting near you so you can greet them after the service.
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PRELUDE “O HOLY NIGHT”¹ EDITED BY D. BISH

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

CHORAL INTROIT “IN JOYOUS PRAISE!”¹ LLOYD LARSON

LESSON FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES, ISAIAH 9:2-7

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

**HYMN #234 (UMH)..... “O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL” (stanzas 1, 3, 4, & 6)

**CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Leader: Welcome tonight to a celebration like no other!

People: This is the night of the Holy Birth!

Leader: Let the love of Jesus be born in your hearts and spirits!

People: Open our hearts to receive this blessed gift, Loving God.

Leader: Rejoice, good friends, the Good News is here!

People: Christ our Savior is Born! Hallelujah! Amen!

MUSICAL OFFERING..... “AVA MARIA”¹ MADELYN FUNKE, SOLOIST

PRAYER (in unison)

God of surprising love and hope, we come this evening to the manger, gazing lovingly on the Child born to bring hope to the world. Open our hearts tonight as we hear the story anew. Help us to be guided by the light of Jesus Christ, that we may truly feel the power of your love and bring that love, with joy, to all we meet. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING..... “CAROL OF THE BELLS”¹HANDBELL CHOIR

GOSPEL LESSON, JOHN 1:1-14 (page 91) (please remain seated)

Leader: This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

MUSICAL OFFERING..... “AMEN! GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN”¹ CHANCEL CHOIR

**GOSPEL LESSON, LUKE 2:1-20 (page 58)

Leader: This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

**RESPONSE #204 (UMH) “EMMANUEL”

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel,
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.**

SERMON “A STAR IN HIS WINDOW” REV. KAREN F. BUNNELL

**HYMN #249 (UMH) “THERE’S A SONG IN THE AIR”

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy 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, forever. Amen.**

RESPONSE #217 “AWAY IN A MANGER” (stanza 3)

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever,
and love me, I pray; bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

CALL TO OFFERING AND OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY “ON A NIGHT OF WONDER”¹ MEN’S CHOIR

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE, #94 (UMH) “PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW”

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

*The ushers will bring the light from the Christ candle to those in the congregation. When
the light comes to you, let the person with the unlighted candle reach over to receive the
light. Please do not tip the lighted candles! When all have received the light, the
congregation will sing:*

**Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!**

