**GATHERING MUSIC**

**PROCESSION OF LIGHTS**

**WELCOME**

**CANDLE-LIGHTING LITURGY**

*Introduction*

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Child of God appear. Lighting the Advent Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy & Love

O come, O come, O Holy Way; no traveler shall go astray. We walk with you through sadness; you fill all hearts with gladness. Lighting the Christ Candle*

*Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: This night, God is telling a story of love in our lives.

All: In the starlit sky, in the tender stable, the Word becomes flesh and makes our story holy.

Leader: This night, God is telling a story of peace in our world.

All: With glad tidings, with great joy, we come to worship and make our lives a song of adoration.

* OPENING CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful 

See Insert

**WORDS OF PREPARATION**

Rev. Lacey Hunter

**CAROL OF PREPARATION**

O Little Town of Bethlehem 

See Insert

**UNFOLDING THE CHRISTMAS STORY**

Luke 1-2, Matthew 1 & Isaiah 11:6-9

**CAROL**

What Child Is This 

See Insert

**CAROL**

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

See Insert

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

**CHORAL OFFERTORY**

Christmas Lullaby 

- Dorothea Brandt

* CAROL OF PRESENTATION

Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere. Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn... (Refrain)

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: Gracious God, we thank you for the gift of your love born anew in us each day. We are grateful for the ways you call us to take up our role in the unfolding story of hope, peace, joy and love.

All: Through us and through our offerings, bring the light of Christ to the world. Amen.

**A TIME OF DARKNESS**

**SPREADING OF THE LIGHT**

Silent Night 

See Insert

**CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION / CHRISTMAS CHIMES**

**CANDLELIGHT RECESSIONAL**

Joy to the World 

See Insert

* COURTYARD BENEDICTION

* In body and spirit, please rise
Worship Participants
Ushers Larry Stallings, Bree Cassells, Joyce Cox & Christine Vincent
Acolyte Reece Thomas & Elia DelMonte
Pageant Coordinator Rev. Lacey Hunter
Ministers Rev. Benjamin Broadbent & Rev. Rachel Knuth
Worship Leaders Erika & Elia DelMonte, Amelia & Caroline Cassells
Choral Music Advent Children’s Choir
Piano & Guitar Andy DelMonte
Chimes & Organ Karna Roa
Tech Team Owen Thomas & Marin Broadbent-Bell

Our mission is to worship God and share the love of Jesus Christ, teaching the message of Jesus to all ages and putting our faith into action.

An Open & Affirming congregation in the United Church of Christ, we welcome and affirm people of every religious background, sexual orientation, family composition, physical and mental ability, ethnicity, age and gender identity and expression.

Christmas Eve Offering this year will be divided between two programs of our church’s denomination, the United Church of Christ: 1. The Christmas Fund, which supplies retired pastors and church workers with supplementary income; 2. U.C.C. Disaster Ministries, which is making a special appeal to support victims of recent tornadoes in Kentucky and Illinois.

Join us every Sunday for Intergenerational Worship at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary and online. More information at www.uccseb.org.