PIANO PRELUDE  Medley of Carols  – Various

PROCессION OF LIGHTS

WELCOME

CANDLE-LIGHTING LITURGY  – The SALT Project

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
Luke 2: 10–11
One: An angel cries: “Behold! I bring good news for all people.” The shepherds reply:
All: “Unto us a child is born this night, a Savior, Christ the Lord.”

OPENING CAROL  O Come, All Ye Faithful  See Insert

FIRST LESSON  The Birth of Jesus Foretold  Matthew 1: 18–24
CAROL  O Little Town of Bethlehem  See insert

SECOND LESSON  The Birth of Jesus  Luke 2: 1–7
CAROL  Hark, the Herald Angels Sing  See insert

THIRD LESSON  The Shepherds and the Angels  Luke 2: 8–20
CAROL  Angels We Have Heard on High  See insert

ANTHEM  Handbells (6:00)  Go, Tell It on the Mountain  – Arr. Sandra Eithun Choir (8:30)  Cradle Hymn  – Appalachian Folk Song

FOURTH LESSON  The Visit of the Magi  Matthew 2: 1–12
* CAROL  The First Noel  See insert

PASTORAL PRAYER (6:00)  Pastor Rachel
SERMON (8:30)  Now in Flesh Appearing  Pastor Benjamin

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY  Handbells (6:00)  Christmas Angels  Choir (8:30)  O Holy Night  – Brian Tervo  – Adolphe Adam

* CAROL OF PRESENTATION  – African American Spiritual
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 your gift of love born in us each day.
All: May these gifts spread the light of hope where despair keeps watch, peace where conflict rages, joy where sadness overwhelms, and love where fear and hatred have taken hold. Through us and through our offerings, bring your light, the light of Christ, to the world. Amen.

A TIME OF DARKNESS  John 1

SPREADING OF THE LIGHT  Silent Night  See insert

CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION / CHIMES

* CANDLELIGHT RECESSIONAL  Joy to the World  See insert

* COURTYARD BENEDICTION  Isaiah 60: 1

* In body and spirit, please rise
WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Greeter 6:00 – Kathy Matthies
8:30 – Joanne Feige

Ushers 6:00 – Gene Nelson, Judy Davison, Bob Curtis & Lori Lapham
8:30 – Kathy Bell, Paula Berndt, Terri Harper & Muriel Weaver

Acolytes Sophia Broadbent-Bell & Tamar Knuth

Liturgists 6:00 – Terri Harper & Larry Stallings
8:30 – Bernie Hovden & Alicia Sanchez

Ministers Rev. Benjamin Broadbent, Rev. Lacey Hunter
& Rev. Rachel Knuth

Worship Music 6:00 – Handbell Ensemble

Handbell Director Karna Roa

Worship Music 8:30 – Chancel Choir

Choral Director Andy DelMonte

Piano J. Althea

Organ Karna Roa & Andy DelMonte

Tech Team 6:00 – Aaron Knuth & Marin Broadbent-Bell
8:30 – Jonah Gonzales & Aaron Knuth

Chancel Décor Kathy Matthies

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.ucseb.org.