



## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

We have three services on Christmas Eve, and each of them is different. While they all involve the festive music and carols of the season and telling the story of Jesus’ birth - each one is unique. This year, be sure to make room in your Christmas schedule to remember the “reason for the season”. Plan to experience the rich joy of the coming of God’s Son into the world!

### **5:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant**

Led by our Confirmation Class, this worship service for the young, and young at heart, is a wonderful celebration of Christmas joy for the whole family. We will join Mary and Joseph as they journey toward Bethlehem and encounter angel messengers with the shepherds as they discover a child wrapped in swaddling cloth, laying in a manger.

### **7:00 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols**

With sacred text and Christmas carols this service tells the story of salvation beginning in Old Testament prophecy and continuing through the gospel proclamation. A beautiful and inspiring narrative with our Chancel Choir leading the way in song. This is a classic and meaningful service with all the joy of the season brought forward; “O come let us adore him! Christ the Lord”.

### **9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion**

Our late service includes the story of Jesus birth, singing the beloved Christmas carols, and adds an essential element of Jesus’ ministry as we break bread together and celebrate Communion. What could be more meaningful on a Christmas Eve than sharing the sacrament with one another and with Christ in the beauty of our Sanctuary.



## ONE SERVICE AT 10:00 ON CHRISTMAS DAY MORNING, DECEMBER 25

This year Christmas falls on a Sunday. We will celebrate with one service at 10:00. Ken Matthews, a life-long member of our church, will conduct the service for the 33rd year, he started this tradition back in 1989! Ken has been leading this service as a gift to the minister/pastor after a busy season.

# THEMES FOR WORSHIP IN DECEMBER

**December 4: Isaiah 11:1-10 Matthew 3:1-12**

*Second Sunday of Advent Communion Sunday*

The Prophet Isaiah invites us into a wild possibility of tiny buds of hope and animals finding harmony together on God's holy mountain. Can we hold on to this vision amidst the violence and vitriol that seems to be ever-present around us?

**December 11: Isaiah 35:1-10 Luke 1:47-55**

*Third Sunday of Advent Chancel Choir*

Both Isaiah and Mary speak of miraculous reversals bringing justice and wholeness to the world. In Luke, we hear Mary's song of praise. With elegant power and directness, Mary preaches as the prophet of the poor.

**December 18: Isaiah 7:10-16 Matthew 1:18-25**

*Fourth Sunday of Advent Family Service Handbell Choir & Children's Choir*

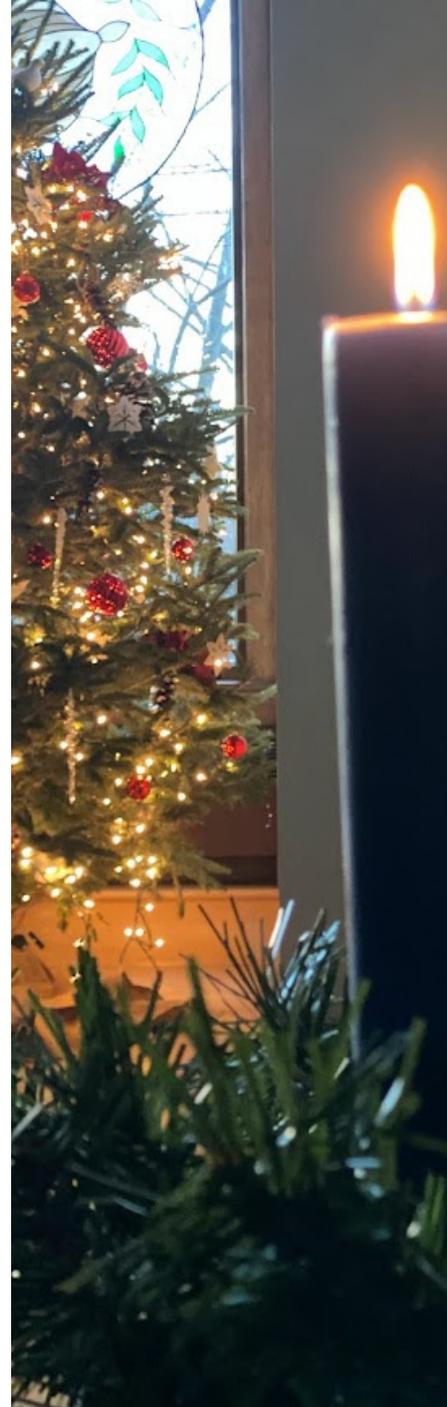
Matthew shares the good news that Joseph will become a father of a child he is to name Emmanuel, which means, "God with us". Together we become more aware of how God is with us every day.

**December 25: Isaiah 52:7-10 John 1:1-14**

*Fourth Sunday of Advent Handbell Choir and Children's Choir*

*Christmas Day One Service at 10:00 a.m.*

As we celebrate the joy of "God-with-us" in the birth of Christ, our joy is full of quiet wonder and joyous song. Join us on Christmas morning as Ken Matthews leads the congregation in worship for the 33rd year.



## CHILDREN'S CHOIR UPDATES

Our Children's Choir, directed by Sherri Melichar, will continue to rehearse the 2nd and 5th Sunday of each month from 11:00-11:30 in the sanctuary (following the 10:00 worship service). For many years, the Choir rehearsed on Monday nights, but this has proven to be difficult.

The Choir typically performs on the 4th Sunday morning of each month during the 10:00 worship service with a rehearsal at 9:15. The Choir doesn't rehearse during Winter and Spring school breaks. We always welcome new faces and it is not necessary to be a member of the church. Friends are always welcome!