

# Waupun United Methodist Church



**Christmas Eve, 2024 4:30 PM**

**Welcome to Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

At the \* sign, please stand as you are able.  
**Bold print** = Congregational response

Prelude

Words of Welcome

**Advent Wreath Meditation** (The four Advent candles are lit.)

Reader One: Friends, today we welcome the Christ Child, the fulfillment of our joy, as we proclaim with the prophet Isaiah, “For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

**Congregation: Christ our joy has come near. Emmanuel, God with us, has come to dwell with us as a tiny baby. “His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this” (Isaiah 9:7).**

Reader Two: We light this candle (*The Christ candle is lit.*) as a sign of Christ coming to dwell with us, to live in the neighborhood of vulnerable humanity as a vulnerable child. May the light of Christ warm our hearts and light our way as we share the joy of God’s salvation wherever we go.

\*Carol                      Red #246                      on supplement                      vs. 1, 2 & 4                      “Joy to the World”

\*Opening Prayer

We have waited for a long time for your hope, your joy, your love to shine in the darkness of this world, Almighty God.

Even now, in our gathering here, we await you.

In our hearts, we still hope that your light will blaze forth,  
banishing the shadows of this world and guiding all the people back to you.

**Yet you did not come into this world in a show of power and glory.**

**You did not shine forth for all of creation to behold.**

**A tiny spark – a newborn baby, visible to parents and curious animals.**

**A host of angels – away from the populated areas, singing to migrant workers.**

**A sparkling star – guiding foreigners to see what neighbors could not.**

Open our hearts, merciful God, to the sparks of your presence still in this world,  
that we might behold your presence in the least likely of places, and among the least likely of people.

**God with us, kindle your spark within us, that together we may shine forth your light,  
we might banish the shadows of this world,**

**we might be the continuation of the Christmas miracle:**

**Emmanuel is in this world, God is with us, now and evermore.**

Illumine our hearts, gracious God,

**that we might speak anew the words your Son will teach us...**

Message for Children

“An Angel of Christmas”

Carol                      Red #234                      vs. 1, 3-4                      on supplement                      “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Bible Reading    on supplement    Isaiah 7:10-14

Carol                      Red #204                      on supplement                      2x                      “Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

Bible Reading on supplement 2 Corinthians 4:5-6

Video Reflection "Joy!"

Bible Reading on supplement Luke 2:1-7

Carol Red #230 vs. 1 - 2 on supplement "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Bible Reading on supplement Luke 2:8-14

Carol Red #238 vs. 1-2 on supplement "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Bible Reading on supplement Luke 2:15-20

Carol Red #217 on supplement "Away in a Manger"

The Message for Christmas Eve "A life worth saving"

**Christmas Offering**

\*Song of Praise – on supplement

Prayer of Dedication

**Celebration at the Lord's Table**

The Lord's Prayer

Bible Reading on supplement John 1:1-14

**Never tip a lit candle. Tip your candle into a lit candle only.**

\*Candlelight Hymn Red #239 on supplement "Silent Night, Holy Night"

\*Blessing

Today's Worship Ministers:	<b>All of us – wherever we are</b>
Tech Operators:	Brady Bronson and Deb White
Pianist:	Sue Rens Guell
Readers:	Suzanne Chase
Pastor/Worship Leader:	Steve Miller

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