

*A Christmas Carol *"Silent Night, Holy Night"* See lyrics below

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;
Christ the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

*Benediction

*Closing Hymn *"Joy to the World"* See lyrics below

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns:
Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

*Postlude Music *"Go, Tell It on the Mountains"* Tom Pechacek/JC Rock

**Best Wishes for a Blessed Christmas
from Members of the Church Staff!**

*Pastor Bryan Olson
Nancy Schouveller, Administrative Assistant*

*Members of JC Rock Praise Band
Sheri Wohlers, Custodian*

The Cottage Grove UCC Council and Executive Team

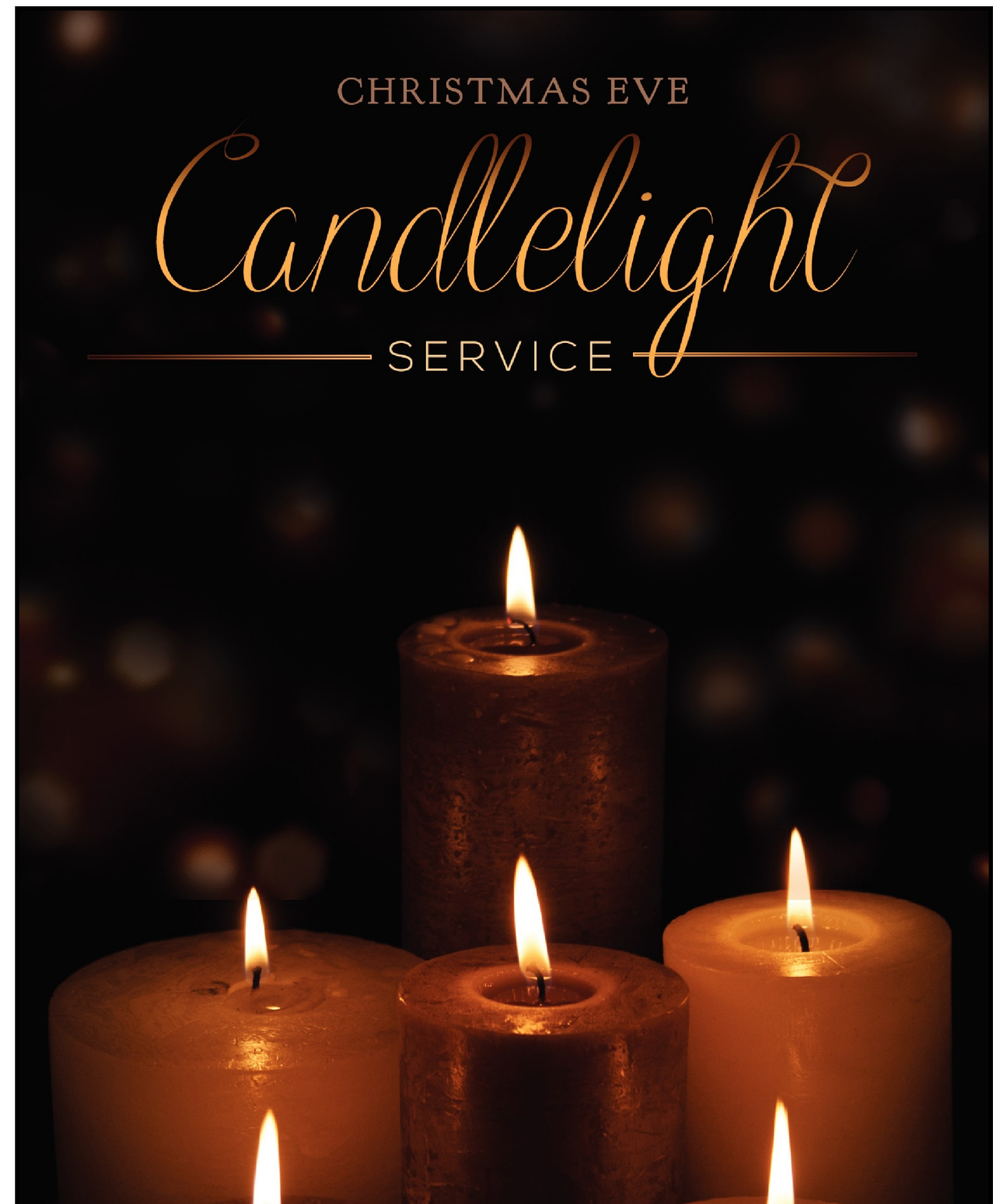
Cottage Grove United Church of Christ

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**Cottage Grove United Church of Christ
Order of Worship**

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2024

9:00 pm

***Cottage Grove United Church of Christ is a Joyful Place to be...
making connections, touching lives, and serving Christ.***

We enter the Sanctuary to worship God. We leave the Sanctuary to serve with God.

*(*People who are able are invited to stand.)*

Please silence your cell phones.

Prelude "Prelude in B Minor" Adrienne Johnson

By J.S. Bach, Arr. By Alexander Siloti

Music As We Gather "We Have A Savior" Tom Pechacek/JC Rock

By Ben Glover, Reuben Morgan - CCLI Song # 6336811, CCLI License # 1913200

*The Good News of Christmas Luke 2:8-11

Leader: In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."

*Processional Hymn "O Come, All Ye Faithful" See lyrics below

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
O Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.

*Welcome Pastor Bryan Olson

*Opening Prayer

Lighting of the Christ Candle The Larsen Family

Candle Lighting Litany and Prayer Words on screen

Leader: At Christ's nativity, we now rejoice and pray...

All: God, our Life and Light, thank you for coming this night to us. Thanks for touching all heaven and earth with your splendor. In every corner of the world, shine this night with your peace. In every corner of our hearts, shine this night with your grace. Amen.

Sharing the Elements

*Cottage Grove UCC practices open communion. People of all ages who confess Christ as Savior are welcome at Christ's table. Today we will receive communion by intinction. You are invited to come forward down the center aisle, receive the bread or gluten free cracker, dip it into a cup with wine (dark colored) **OR** grape juice (light colored), eat and receive a blessing. Then return to your seat by a side aisle. Servers will go to the pews of those unable to come forward. Please inform an usher of your desire to receive communion in your pew. Sealed Communion kits (wafer and grape juice) are available in the Gathering Room for those who would like to receive the elements that way.*

Communion Music "Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming" Adrienne Johnson

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: Let us pray

All: Tonight, O God, your Word is made flesh and dwells among us full of grace and truth. For that gift and all you give to us, we say THANK YOU, ALLELUIA, and AMEN! As we behold your glory, we commit ourselves to Christ's work. Make of us the body of Christ and dwell in us by your Spirit for the sake of the world that you love. In the name of Christ, the newborn Messiah, we pray. Amen.

A Response to God's Grace "The First Noel" See lyrics below

The first noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, noel! Noel, noel! Born is the King of Israel!
They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Noel, noel! Noel, noel! Born is the King of Israel!

Sharing the Word and Light of Christ

*All of the lights in the sanctuary will be turned off and there will be a period of darkness, symbolizing the darkness of the world before Christ's coming. For those at home, we would encourage you to turn the lights down or off in the space where you are worshipping. The Christ candle and all of the Advent candles will then be relit and the Pastor will share the light from the Christ candle with the ushers who will pass the light onto the congregation. For those at home, please have one person light their candle and then share that light with others. Please **DO NOT** tip lighted candles, lest hot wax be spilled. Tip only unlit candles to receive the flame and make sure to keep the drip guard over your hand to protect it from dripping wax.*

Note: Parents, please assist young children in lighting and holding their candles. The light will be shared with all and then the congregation will sing together. Thank you!

The Light of the World is Here John 1:1-4, 14, 16-17 Pastor Bryan Olson

*A Christmas Carol *“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”* See lyrics below

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King:
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

We Bring Our Tithes and Offerings to God

An Invitation to Give In-person, Electronically, and by Mail
(In-person guests are invited to place their offerings in the plate as it is passed or in the box at the back of the sanctuary following the service. For those who wish to give electronically, a QR Code will be shown during this time in the service where you can connect to CGUCC’s safe and secure online giving site directly by scanning the code with your mobile device.)



Offertory Music *“The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy”* Adrienne Johnson

A Prayer of Dedication (*spoken together*)
Holy God, we are grateful — for this journey to the manger, for this community gathered around candles of light, and for Christ born to us this night. We pray that you carry our prayers, talents and money where there is greatest need, transforming them into joy for the world. Surprise us with what our ministry together can do. Amen.

A Christmas Carol *“Angels We Have Heard On High”* See lyrics below

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echo back their joyous strains.
Glo——ria, in excelsis Deo,
Glo——ria, in excelsis Deo.

The Order for the Sacrament of Holy Communion

(If you would like to participate in the sacrament at home, please have some bread, crackers, rice cakes, etc. to break and share as well as a cup or cups of juice, wine, or water for each person)

Invitation to Christ’s Table
Communion Prayer
Words of Remembering (breaking the bread and filling the cup)
Prayer of Consecration
The Lord’s Prayer
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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, and deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Sung Response *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”* See lyrics below

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light:
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

We Hear and Sing the Christmas Story

The Announcement to Mary Luke 1:26-38 Yvonne Bonngard
A Christmas Song *“Mary Did You Know”* Tom Pechacek/JC Rock
By Buddy Greene, Mark Lowry - CCLI Song # 839225, CCLI License # 1913200

The Announcement to Joseph Matthew 1:18-24 Glenn Lohse
A Christmas Carol *“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”* See lyrics below

For lo, the days are hastening on,
By prophet seen of old,
When, with the ever-circling years,
Shall come the time foretold,
When the new heaven and earth shall own
The Prince of Peace their King,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.

The Journey and The Birth Luke 2:1, 3-7 Wayne Olson
A Christmas Carol *“Away in a Manger”* See lyrics below

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

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.

The Shepherds and the Angels Luke 2:8-20 Donna Perkins
A Christmas Song *“Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)”* Tom Pechacek/JC Rock
By Chris Tomlin - CCLI Song # 5601640, CCLI License # 1913200

A Christmas Message *“A Manger Full of Promise”* Pastor Bryan Olson