

*The Order  
Of  
Divine Worship*

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*Christmas Eve*

December 24, 2011

6:30 P.M.

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PRELUDE (Please register your attendance.)

\* THE HYMN "Angels from the Realms of Glory" No. 220

\* THE ACT OF PRAISE

Leader: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice. The grace of God has come to save us.

**People: For our sakes, God sent the child of Bethlehem. For our salvation, Jesus came to live among us.**

Leader: Let all the people sing for joy and give thanks. Tell the world what God has done in our midst.

**People: God has called and chosen us to hear good news. God's marvelous works are new every morning.**

Leader: Glory to God in the highest. Peace on earth to all who please God.

**People: We seek to honor God in this time of worship. We want to see for ourselves what God has done.**

Amen. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Opening prayers (in unison)

**We rejoice before you, gracious God, as Jesus is born anew into our little world, stretching our perceptions toward the truth that is universal. Help us to sense day by day the coming of your salvation. Alert us to the songs of angels, that we may respond as did the shepherds, sharing good news of great joy.**

**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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against**

**us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

**Response**

No. 205 (No. 3)

**O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

Leader: We look for light but find darkness, for brightness but walk in gloom. We grope like those who have no eyes; we stumble at noon as in the twilight.

**Response: O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.**

Leader: If I say, "Let only darkness cover me, and the light about me be night, even the darkness is not dark to you, the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

**Response: O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.**

Leader: Blessed be your name, O God, for ever. You reveal deep and mysterious things; you are light and in you is no darkness. Our darkness is passing away and already the true light is shining.

**Response.** "Emmanuel, Emmanuel"

No. 204

SPECIAL MUSIC

Chancel Choir

"Christmas Time All Christians Sing"

"The Manger"

GIVING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

SPECIAL MUSIC

"The First Noel"

Chancel Belles

THE SCRIPTURE

St. Luke 2:1-20

THE HYMN

"Away in a Manger"

No. 217

THE MESSAGE

The Rev. Anthony N. Cutting

"Let Every Heart Prepare Him"

\* THE HYMN

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

(on screen)

(receive the light, pass the light)

\* THE HYMN "Silent Night, Holy Night" (on screen)

(Please extinguish your candle at the end of "Silent Night")

REFLECTION AND PRAYER

\* THE HYMN "Joy to the World" No. 246

\* THE COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Leader: Walk no more in gloom and shadows. The light of Christ will shine within and among us.

**People: We will look to that light on life's journey.**

**The one called Wonderful Counselor walks with us.**

Leader: Lift one another's burdens and sing together for joy. The grace of God has appeared to save us.

**People: We will center our lives on Jesus Christ. God calls us to faithfulness and good deeds.**

Leader: Carry the peace of Christ into the world. Glorify and praise God in all you do.

**People: We will tell of what we have seen and heard.**

**The good news of great joy is for all people.**

Amen. **Amen.**

***A blessed Christmas to all!***



***Sunday Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m.***

***Sanford United Methodist Church***

***Our Staff***

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