

Prelude Greensleeves

arr. Richard Purvis

Welcome

+Christmas Litany

Love has come -

We have hope for what might be!

Love has come -

We have faith in God's work!

Love has come -

We have joy in the light that banishes darkness!

Love has come! Christ is born!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

+Hymn *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

#234 vv1,3,5,6

Christmas Prayer

Scripture Lesson Matthew 1:18-23 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”

+Hymn *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

#230 vv1,3,4

Scripture Lesson Luke 2: 1-7 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Children's Message

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Scripture Lesson Luke 2:8-20 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. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Hymn *What Child Is This?*

#219 vv1,2

Message

Handbell Choir *Carol of the Bells*

arr. Cathy Moglebust

Offering of Our Gifts and Lighting of the Candles

Hymn *Silent Night*

#239 vv1,2,4

Carrying the Light into the World

+Hymn *Joy to the World*

#246 vv1,4

+Benediction

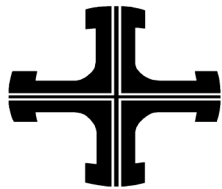
+Postlude *Toccata on Antioch (Joy to the World)*

arr. Craig Phillips

Thank you to all of our musicians and behind the scene workers!
We are glad we could worship together this evening.
For more information about Northfield United Methodist Church visit our
website northfieldumc.org.

May You Have a Blessed Christmas.

Rachel McIver Morey, Lead Pastor
Jerad Morey, Associate Pastor
Joanne Rodland, Organist
Kathy Szydlo, Handbell Choir Director
NUMC Band:
Wendy Smith, Flute
JC Sanford, Trombone
Nick Weaver, Guitar
David Miller, Piano
Mike Legvold, Bass Guitar
Dave Drentlaw, Drums



CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2023
4:30 PM

Northfield United Methodist Church
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