Lacey United Methodist Church

2024 Christmas Eve Worship Service 7:00 P.M.

Prelude

Welcome

*Hymn O Come, All Ye Faithful (v. 1,3) UMH 234

*Call to Worship

For you who are filled to the brim with happiness, Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born. For you who are mourning the loss of family and friends, Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born. For you who feel like you are tripping about in darkness, Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born. For you who rest in gratitude and contentment, Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born. For you who feel the ache of loneliness, Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born. For you who are surrounded by unlikely yet beautiful companionship, Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born. Come, let us worship the birth of our Savior! Come, let us worship God who came to dwell among us!

Christmas Wreath Lighting Peter & Owen Donahue Readers: Karen Johnson & John Maxman

*Hymn O Little Town of Bethlehem UMH 230

Message: "The Story of Christmas" Dominic Gregoria

Happy Birthday Jesus!

"Twas the Night of Jesus' Birth" by Felicia Mollohan Read by Dominic Gregoria

Hymn

Away in a Manger UMH 217

Offerina

Offering Hymn ~ O Holy Night

*Doxology

UMH 95

Christmas Offering Prayer

Holy God, as we gather this evening, all our attention is focused on a baby, lying in a makeshift bed in an "it-willhave-to-do" stable. It's not lost on us that you sent your Son, our Savior, into the world among the poorest of the poor and told us: "This will be a sign to you." As we present gifts to you, we pray that they might reach those in the greatest need, that they might lift those in the deepest despair, and that they might bring peace and compassion to those who find themselves amidst conflict. We pray this in the name of that Holy Child, Jesus the Christ, our Savior and Redeemer! Amen.

Hymn The First Noel v. 1.2 UMH 245

Prayer of Confession

In the middle of this season, I confess that I have focused too much on myself that I have focused too much on presents and that I have forgotten to think about the gift of Jesus. Forgive me, and help me to see myself in the story of Christmas.

(Time for Silent Confession and Reflection)

Assurance of Pardon

Passing of the Peace

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Lord's Prayer

The Breaking of the Bread and The Sharing of the Cup

The Prayer of Humble Access

The Reception

As you come up to receive communion, please bring your offering and place it in the manger. After you receive communion, please take a candle from an usher and return to your seat.

Prayer of Gratitude

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in

which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture: John 1:1-14

Candle Lighting

The ushers will light the candle of the individual at the end of the row, hold the lit candle upright while sharing the Light of Christ with the person next to you.

*Carol Silent Night UMH 239

Dismissal with Blessing

*Postlude Joy to the World (v.1,4) UMH 246

Pastor: Rev. Jonathan Campbell Liturgist: Rose Coram Music Director: Matthew Holmberg Guest Musicians: Trumpet - Chris Cinkutis Trumpet - Joseph Brausam French Horn - Heather Meelheim Euphonium - Bob Pentland Tuba - Don Van Koppen Head Ushers: Sherry Exel & Rick Waddell

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