



*Blessed is the
season which
engages the
whole world in
a conspiracy of
love.*

-Hamilton Wright Mabie

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2019

5:00 p.m. service

Shadow Rock UCC

A Celebration of Christmas

December 24, 2019 5:00 p.m.

Pre-Service Music

Our Great Band

Welcome and Greeting

Rev. Ken Heintzelman

Call to Worship

Led by Tom Mehlert



One: No one is ever really ready for Christmas.
If we were really all prepared:
if every gift we had contemplated had been obtained;
if every present was beautifully beribboned;
if all the goodies our friends deserve were baked and
cooled, and stored just so;
if each and every person we love was gathered for our
celebration;
if we never snapped at someone we care about, nor
stopped short of being all that we could be ...
We truly would be ready - and truly we would not
need Christmas quite so much.

So come, Christmas, most needed of seasons.

**All: Come, Christmas!
Come, Love,
Come, Hope. Be born in our unready hearts on this
silent and holy night.**

Singing Our Faith

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Please stand if comfortably able.

by John Francis Wade

1. 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!
2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above.
Glory to God in the highest,
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!
3. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n:
Word of the Spirit, 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!
(Repeat Chorus)

Opening Prayer

Led by Rev. Ken Heintzelman

Special Music

O Holy Night

Shared by Forrest Bachtel

Shared by Maggie Baca

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem, the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in swaddling cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds, returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Special Music

Do You Hear What I Hear?

Shared by Our Great Band

A Christmas Prayer

Shared by Rev. Ken Heintzelman

One: Compassionate One, you are love that comes to us every day for every need.

All: Love, come down to us and we shall be whole.

One: For our families and friends that we may continue to help and support each other. We need the visitation of love.

All: Love, come down to us and we shall be whole.

One: For the person we have loved who has died. For all the losses we have known, we need the visitation of love.

All: Love, come down to us and we shall be whole.

One: For all the world, that all people may know love and peace and happiness.

All: Love, come down to us and we shall be whole.

One: For the peace proclaimed by the Christmas angels to come throughout the whole world, we need the visitation of love.

All: Love, come down to us and we shall be whole.

One: God of great compassion and love, listen to the hopes of your people. (Silence)

One: We unite our voices and hearts with your Spirit and pray together,

All: Spirit of Life and Love, within and around us, we revere you. We seek to live life to the fullest with love and respect for all people and all things in the universe. May we find each day sufficient for our needs. May we find forgiveness when we do wrong, just as we forgive those who do wrong to us. In times of trouble, may we center our lives in you. For your being is love, which comes with strength and with beauty, throughout eternity. Amen.

Call to Offering

Led by Rev. Ken Heintzelman

This evening's offering will replenish the Pastor's Charitable Fund. This fund is used in time of crisis and has provided groceries, utilities, rent assistance and car repairs.

Additionally, the fund has been used to help families bridge a financial gap between periods of employment, thus preventing situations of homelessness. These things are done in the name of Shadow Rock UCC and can only be done because of your support. In every instance we do our best to maximize the stewardship of your support to the Pastor's Charitable Fund. You have been generous every year and many people are grateful. Thank You!

One: Life is a gift and we are its celebration.

All: May we rejoice in the beauty that we are.

One: Every time we offer up our gifts, we are sharing the wondrous gift of ourselves. May the recipients of these offerings be embraced with God's love.

The Offering and Offertory

We Three Kings

Shared by Our Great Band

Dedication of Our Gifts

Led by Rev. Ken Heintzelman

One: God of Light, we dedicate ourselves and these gifts for service in the world.

All: **May we be beacons of love and justice in a darkened world, shining your light on all people living in places of need of your light.**

Christmas Message

Shared by Rev. Ken Heintzelman

Special Music

The First Noel

Shared by Our Great Band

Children's Time

Candle Lighting Instructions

If you would like to participate but did not pick up a candle when you came in, raise your hand and let an usher bring you a candle. **You can light your candle by tipping your unlit candle to the flame of the person next to you.** As we share the candle lighting portion of our service, each family decides who will hold the candles. Please be mindful of the safety of your family and the people around you.

Candle Lighting Movement and Call to the Light

Led by Our Great Band

One: Gathered together

All: We wait for the light.

One: Standing together

All: We trust in the light.

One: Praying together

All: We hope for the light.

One: Seeking together

All: We step out with the light.

One: Singing together

All: We are blessed by the light.

Candle Lighting Song

Led by Our Great Band and Forrest Bachtel

Candle Song

by Julie Tuttle

Word for the Light

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Jesus was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

We give thanks for all the love and support we have known. We light candles because we affirm that dawn defeats darkness. We light to proclaim the gift of hope which the Christmas story offers to us. We assert that God is our companion, who shares our life, blesses us, and fills us with longing and with courage. Let us remember the One who holds us in love.

Silent Night, Holy Night

by Franz Gruber

(Sing three verses, hum one verse, repeat first verse only.)

1. 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.
2. Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing "Alleluia".
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

3. Silent night! Holy night! Child 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.

Please follow the ushers' direction when exiting.

Take the Light Out into the World

Go now in joy, building, living in and enjoying a
community full of light and love.



SHADOW ROCK STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Karen Richter

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*Director of Campus Affairs
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Rev. Ken Heintzeman

Senior Minister

Dr. William O. Smith

Founding Minister

Liz Curry

Preschool Director

Forrest Bachtel

Choir Director

Julie Tuttle

Accompanist

Our Great Band

Joe Garcia, Percussion

Dave Robinson, Guitar

John Willis, Bass Guitar

Travis Meyers, Keytar

Ushers

Peter Johnston, Greg Rampley,

Roy Zaborowski, Peg Hesley,

Joe Botticelli, Tim Mikkelsen,

Chuck Bonstelle, Michael Curry

Sound Team

Dave Hillyard, Ken Eicher,

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Video Team

Bryan Baca



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