

**Silent Night, Holy Night**

*Joseph Mohr, 1792-1848; trans. by John F. Young, 1820-1885*

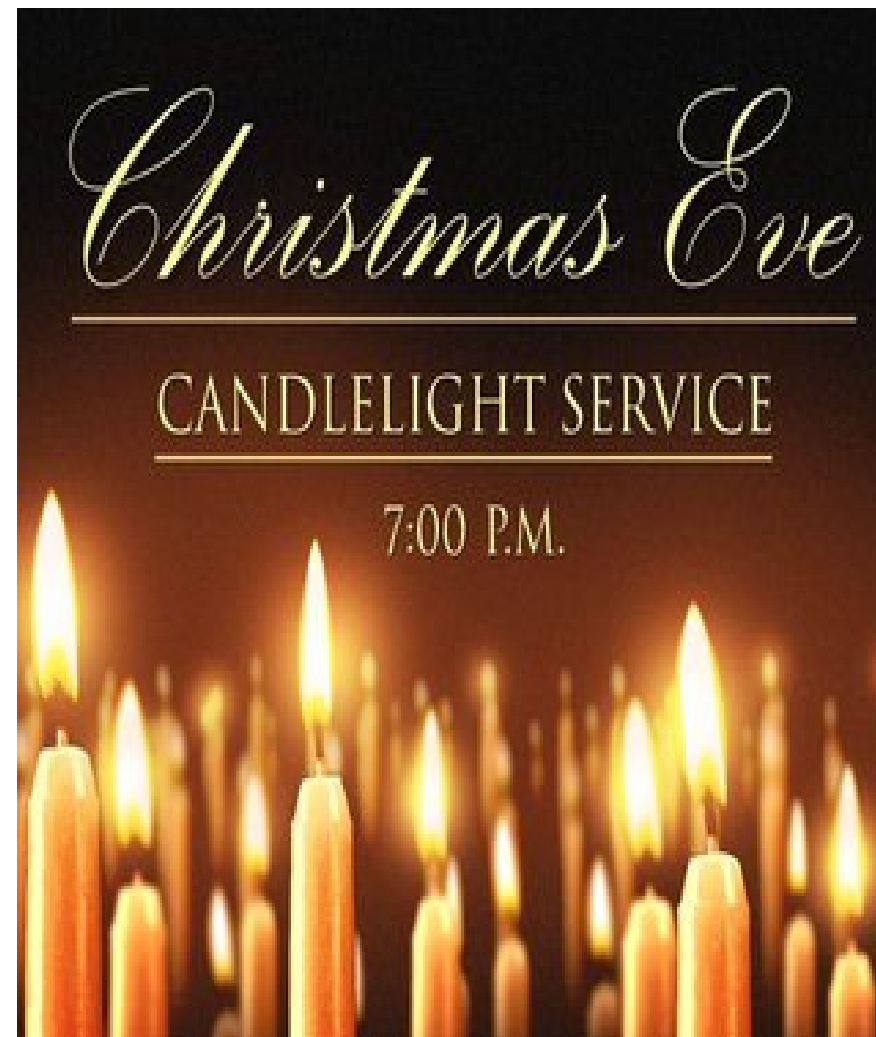
1. Silent Night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright  
 Round yon virgin mother and child.  
 Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
 Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in Heavenly peace
  
2. Silent night, holy night, shepherds' quake at the sight;  
 glories stream from heaven afar,  
 heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
 Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

**Reflections**

***“Take time this Christmas to examine these virtues (joy, hope, compassion, generosity, patience, love) that tend to be stronger in you at Christmas. Write them down. Then ask God to help you carry these virtues over into January, the February, and longer, until they become permanent residents of your character.”***  
*–Dan Schaeffer, “In Search of the Real Spirit of Christmas”*

**May God’s richest blessings, His truest joys, and His unfailing guidance be yours  
 this Christmas and in the coming year!**  
*Pastor Dominic & Comfort Tommy*

**\*\*\*For those of you who ordered Memorial Christmas Poinsettias, please take  
 them home with you after our service.\*\*\***



**Central Church**

**Our Mission**

***Central United Methodist Church Glorifies God through the Work of  
 Ministry and the Making of Disciples of Jesus Christ.***

\*\*\*\*\*

912 Fourth Ave., PO Box 485, Lake Odessa, MI 48849

[www.centralchurch-lakeo.org](http://www.centralchurch-lakeo.org)

**Rev. Dominic Tommy, Pastor**  
[pastor@centralchurch-lakeo.org](mailto:pastor@centralchurch-lakeo.org)

616-374-8861

**CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
***Festival of Light***

**December 24, 2018**

**Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Organ Bell:** (Calling the congregation to a moment of silence)

**GATHERING**

*Large print hymnals and bulletins are available. Please ask an usher.*

**PRELUDE**

Marilyn Noffke

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please sign, pass, and return red friendship pads in each pew at this time.*

*Also prepare Prayer Request Sheets during this time.*

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN "O Come, All Ye Faithful" vs 1-4 Hymnal 234

\*CALL TO WORSHIP; LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end. It is a symbol of God's unending love and faithfulness.

**Jesus Christ is the brightest revelation of God's love. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.**

Christ Jesus who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

**We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. Joy to the earth, our Savior reigns!**

**Pastor:** On Behalf of the First Holy Family of Bethlehem, we light this candle because the Christ Child born on this day is the Light of the World.

\*OPENING HYMNS "The First Noel" vs 1,2,6 Hymnal 245  
"O Little Town of Bethlehem" vs 1&2 Hymnal 230

**INVOCATION** (in unison)

**We praise you, God of the universe, for calling us into being and for your steadfast love and faithfulness since the beginning of creation. We give you thanks for the Word made flesh in our Savior, Jesus Christ, so that we have hope of forgiveness and eternal life in his name. Grant that we and the world may know the joy and peace we have in Christ, especially on this Christmas Day. Fill our hearts and homes with the joy of his birth. Help us to live this and every day, knowing that the Spirit of Christ dwells in us and guides us so that we may be his witnesses in all that we say and do. Amen.**

**ANTHEM** "Joy to the World" Chancel Choir  
by Joseph M. Martin

**SHARING PEACE**

The Peace of our Lord Jesus be with You!

**And Also with You!**

(Please take this time to greet one another in the Name of Christ by saying, "Peace be with you" and your neighbor says "And also with you")

1<sup>ST</sup> LESSON OF ADVENT The Book of Isaiah 9:1-7 Pew Bible OT pg 600

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Children age 4 & under are welcome to leave for the Nursery downstairs right after the *Children's Moment*. Nanette Biang

**BIRTHDAY OFFERING TO CHRIST CHILD**

**The offerings received in this service will go to the ministry of the Lakewood Ministerial Association for support of families in the community of Lakewood School District.**

**OFFERTORY**

**DOXOLOGY**

**UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF GIFTS**

**God of grace and glory, you have blessed us with the gifts of all creation. Especially we thank you for the gift of Jesus' birth and the joy of celebrating this gift in our congregation and our homes. Receive the gifts we now offer and use them to your glory and the aid of all those in any need. May our lives give powerful witness to the peace and love that we have first received in our Lord Jesus. Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** "O, Holy Night" Carole Reiser

2<sup>ND</sup> LESSON OF ADVENT The Gospel of Luke 2:1-20 Pew Bible NT pg 54

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**CHRISTMAS MEMORIES IN HYMNS**

"Angel from the Realms of Glory" vs 1&2 Hymnal 220

"Away in the Manger" vs 1-3 Hymnal 217

"Once in Royal David's City" Hymnal 250

**CANDLELIGHT MOMENT** "Carry your Candle" On screen

**\*\*Please be careful when lighting the candle. If your candle is lit first, hold your candle upright and let your neighbor light from yours. Thank you.\*\***

\*CLOSING HYMN "Silent Night, Holy Night" vs 1-2  
(Please see the back of this bulletin for lyrics)

\*BENEDICTION All extinguish their candles

POSTLUDE **\*Please stand as you are able.**