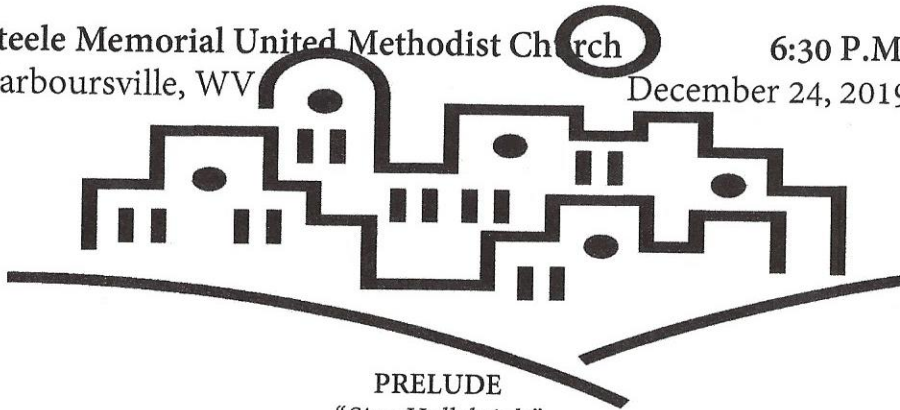


Steele Memorial United Methodist Church  
Barboursville, WV

6:30 P.M.

December 24, 2019



PRELUDE

*"Sing Hallelujah"*

Sing Hallelujah to the Lord. Sing Hallelujah to the Lord.  
Sing Hallelujah, sing Hallelujah, Sing Hallelujah to the Lord.

ISAIAH 9:2-6

EVENING PRAYER

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

RESPONSE: *"Open Our Eyes, Lord"*

Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,  
to reach out and touch Him, and say that we love Him  
Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen.  
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.

CHRISTMAS DIALOGUE

(Congregation speaks the bold print)

*What Child Is This?* No. 219

What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?  
**This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;**  
haste, haste, to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

The night is dark. The stars are dim. The world is smothered in darkness.

**There is the sound of sorrow next door, the cries of anger down the street, the quiet of loneliness living out its life upstairs.**

Yet there are words, words from God: "I will save you. Gory will be yours. Your King, a righteous King above and beyond the defeats and triumphs of this world, will come and reign bringing truth and life."

The King is coming, and we will follow Him! Follow Him through suffering to salvation.

Why lies He in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste, to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

The glory of the Lord is seen in a manger. A feeding box. The glory of the Lord is revealed in a baby.

**God is a God who is hidden and yet seen; a great glorious King;  
a Child born of woman.**

Our sovereign Lord comes as a baby, a baby born to a carpenter's family, not to a mighty monarch.

**Our Savior is come, righteous and gentle, a King for this fallen world.**  
Great and glorious is His reign!

**Wondrous and awesome is His nature:**

God and man!

**King and Child!**

Noble and peasant!

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own Him;  
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste, to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

SOLO SPECIAL

*"O Holy Night"* – Kristin Call

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Luke 2:1-7

*"Away In a Manger"* No. 217 (vs. 1-2)

Luke 2:8-20

*"Angels We Have Heard On High"* No. 238 (vs. 1-2)

MESSAGE

*"Glory. Peace. And Good Will."*

Pastor Kevin Lantz

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord of Light and Hope, our minutes and hours have been swallowed up preparing for this night and for the coming day. We have been so caught up planning for gatherings and gifting that we have pushed aside the wonder of what You have done for all Creation.

**Forgive us when we so easily get entangled in our own plans and forget to pay attention to what this night truly means. Help us to relax and listen, instead of rush and shout.**

May the songs of the angels, the surprise of the shepherds, and the joy of the Holy Family become part of our preparation and our lives.

**Open our ears, our eyes, our hearts and our spirits to hear again the old, old story, spoken by new voices in new ways. Remind us again of Your never-changing love for us. Prepare us to serve You by serving others. This night we offer this prayer of our hearts to You, our gracious God. Amen**

### HOLY COMMUNION

Prayer of Consecration

The Lord's Prayer:

[in unison]

**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**

Invitation to Holy Communion

### CANDLE LIGHTING

*"Silent Night, Holy Night"* No. 239 (vs. 1-3)

Silent night! Holy night!

Silent night! Holy night!

All is calm all is bright

Shepherds quake at the sight

Round yon virgin mother and child

Glories stream from heaven afar

Holy infant so tender and mild

Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia

Sleep in heavenly peace!

Christ the Savior is born!

Sleep in heavenly peace!

Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night! Holy night!  
Son 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.

### BENEDICTION

May the light that began at creation, continued through the witness of the prophets, and has come to fullness at the Birth of Jesus Christ, be in your hearts and minds this evening. As you go from this place may your spirits be filled with joy and hope; for God's precious Light has been given for you. Go in Peace and know that God's peace always goes with you. **AMEN!**