

**Memorial United Methodist Church
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Communion Service**

December 24, 2018

9:00 PM

Please silence your cell phone.

***CHIMING OF THE WORSHIP TIME**

***WELCOME & PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** Pastor Russell

Let us offer one another signs of reconciliation and peace.

CALL TO WORSHIP Blowing of the Shofar

PRELUDE Harp, Sue Eggleston

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Insert
Russell & Julie Cheatham

***OPENING PRAYER** (unison) Kathy Dickerson

O God, our Father, you have brought us again to the glad season
when we celebrate the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Grant that his Spirit may be born anew in our hearts this day
and that we may joyfully welcome him to reign over us.
Open our ears that we may hear again the angelic chorus of old.
Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth, peace, goodwill toward all;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks #236 TUMH

GIVING OF OUR FAITH

Tonight's offering will go to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund to help those who come to our church in financial need.

OFFERTORY *O Holy Night* Charlene Lawson, Solo

***SONG OF THANKSGIVING:** *Sing Alleluia to the Lord
Sing alleluia to the Lord! Sing alleluia to the Lord!
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia! Sing alleluia to the Lord!*

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER #895 TUMH

***OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** Isaiah 40:1-5, 10-11
pp. 653-654 (OT) Bible

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON *Our Shepherd* Pastor Russell

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Responses are the Musical Settings on numbers 2257-a thru 2257-d in TFWS

***WORDS OF INVITATION**

You that do truly and earnestly repent of your sin and are in love and charity with your neighbors and intend to lead a new life following the commandments of God, draw near with faith and make your humble confession to Almighty God.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Father,

We cannot come before You
unless we are first honest with ourselves
about who we are,
about the mistakes we make,
and about how well or how poorly we care for others.

In this spirit, let us offer our prayers to God,
and thank You for forgiveness. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING p. 13 TUMH

INSTITUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

BREAKING THE BREAD

GIVING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

***PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING:**

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.

***SERVICE OF CANDLE LIGHTING**

Forming a Circle of Light around the Sanctuary

Light will be passed from worshiper to worshiper. (Remember that the lighted candle remains upright, and the unlighted candle is tipped toward the lighted one.)

***HYMN** *Silent Night, Holy Night* #239 TUMH

You may place your candles in the baskets at the entrances and exits of the sanctuary.