

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

December 24, 2017

9:00 PM

Please silence your cell phone.

***CHIMING OF THE WORSHIP TIME**

***WELCOME, Passing of the Peace** Pastor Russell
Let us offer one another signs of reconciliation and peace.

CALL TO WORSHIP: Blowing of the Shofar

PRELUDE: *Once In Royal David's City* piano/organ

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Insert
Kelly and Andy Coles

***OPENING PRAYER:** (unison) Ronnie Ranson
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.
Open our lips that we, too, may sing with uplifted hearts.
Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth, peace, goodwill toward all;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN OF PRAISE:** *Away in a Manger* #217 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*

***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

***GOSPEL LESSON:** Luke 2:1-7 p. 57 (NT) Bible

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON: *Joy to the World!* 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

***POSTLUDE**

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