### EBENEZER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4901 Woodbine Road Sykesville, Maryland 21784 (410)795-6136

www.ebenezerumchurch.org
Rev. Judith A. Emerson, Pastor
Linda Bange, Director of Music/Organist

December 24, 2019 8:00 PM

# Christmas Eve Worship

THE PRELUDE "Noel Joyeux" Gordon Young

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

ANTHEM "Jesus is Born Tonight" Chancel Choir

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing a new song to God, all the earth!

We rejoice, for the Christ Child is born!

Glory to God in the highest!

We see in a manger good news of great joy!

\*OPENING HYMN "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" UMH No.240

#### CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Loving God, in this Christmas Season of great joy, let us hear once more the message of the angels. Lead us, in heart and mind, to Bethlehem to see the Son of God lying in a manger. On this holy night help us to remember the needs of this world and lift our prayers for peace, justice and unity as we rejoice in the hope you bring, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Scripture reading from Isaiah 9:2-7

Throughout this season we have lived, waited, and remembered the hope, peace, joy, and love of God found in Christ.

Lighting Advent Candles I, II, III & IV

Candle Lighting Liturgy – Lighting the Christ Candle

Tonight we gather together and light candles in honor of the Christ Child.

With the birth of Christ, salvation has drawn near. The God who ordered the chaos of the universe has come down into the chaos of our world. The Word which was with God at the beginning came down and lived with us. While we were yet living in the valley of the shadow of death, the light of new life burst forth.

We light this candle for Christ.

## On this night, we remember God has come in the Christ Child.

Sung Response UMH No. 230

# O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie, above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light:

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:1-20 NT pg. 54

ANTHEM "Angel Song" Chancel Choir
Presented to the Glory of God and in memory of Dolly Hardesty.

CHRISTMAS SERMON. "Behold the Light of Christmas" Rev. Judy Emerson

HYMN "Silent Night" UMH No. 239

**OFFERING** 

Offertory "He is Born" Chancel Choir

\*Presentation of our Gifts

\*Doxology

## "In the Bleak Midwinter"

UMH No. 221

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

\*Prayer of Dedication

O God, we give these gifts as we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child and we pray that the joy we feel in our hearts this holy night will overflow in unending service and praise. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

\*HYMN "Joy to the World" UMH No. 246

\*BLESSING WITH DISMISSAL

\*POSTLUDE

\*Congregation standing when able TFWS – The Faith We Sing Hymnal UMH – United Methodist Hymn



