

CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2019

9:00 PM

PRELUDE

A POEM

“LISTEN”

UNISON READING

ISAIAH 9: 2, 6-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

* **CAROL** “O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL” **C-5**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

SUSAN AND SCOTT CLEVELAND

“I WILL LIGHT CANDLES” BY HOWARD THURMAN

CAROL

“O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL”

C-18

IN THOSE DAYS A DECREE WENT OUT...

LUKE 2: 1-7

ANTHEM

“VENI, COME, O LORD”

DOUGLAS E. WAGNER

IN THAT REGION THERE WERE SHEPHERDS...

LUKE 2: 8-12

CAROL

“WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS”

C-26

AND SUDDENLY THERE WAS WITH THE ANGEL...

LUKE 2: 13-20

CAROL

“IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR”

C-15

A POEM

“THE MIRACLE”

* **CAROL** “ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH” **C-8**

IN THE TIME OF KING HEROD, AFTER JESUS WAS BORN...

MATTHEW 2: 1-2, 9-11

CAROL

“WHAT CHILD IS THIS?”

C-22

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

SUSAN AND SCOTT CLEVELAND

“THE BIRTH OF HOPE”

SPECIAL NOTE: *The hymn numbers for the carols will not be announced so as not to break the continuity of the service. All of tonight's hymns are located in the Singing the Season booklet. Please stand only where an Asterisk (*) is indicated.*

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

(Tilt your unlighted candle to the flame of your neighbor's candle)

A POEM

“LIGHT FOR THE WORLD”

CAROL

“SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT”

*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.*

*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!*

*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.*

*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!*

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

FOR IT IS GOD WHO SAID, “LET LIGHT SHINE OUT OF DARKNESS...”

2 CORINTHIANS 4:6

* CAROL

“JOY TO THE WORLD! THE LORD IS COME”

C-16

* A CHRISTMAS BLESSING

* POSTLUDE

We offer special welcome to all who worship with us on this Christmas Eve.

Thank you to Janet Sanders for managing the lights this evening.

The worship leaders this evening are Rev. Dr. Debbie Clark and Rev. Dr. Fran Bogle.

We have sound-enhancing assistive listening devices and large print bulletins available.

Please speak with an usher or pick one up in the narthex.

Rev. Debbie Clark will be away from December 25 through December 28. If you have a pastoral concern during that time, please contact Rev. Dr. Karen Nell Smith at 508-331-3081. **The office will be closed** December 25 and 26.

Coming Up At Edwards Church

Potluck Worship

Sunday, December 29 at 10:00am in Susan P. Dickerman Hall

Karen Nell Smith will lead us we will enjoy favorite holiday foods and worship together. Bring a left-over tasty treat from your holiday celebrations to share. Dress casually!

Combined Epiphany Worship

Sunday, January 5 at 10:00am at Edwards Church

We will join with our friends from Plymouth Church for our 21st Annual Combined Epiphany Worship Service. The service will be an intergenerational opportunity to reflect on the ways we are changed by our journey to the manger. Kelly Lopez and George Marcincavage will offer special music. Bring warm, new white socks for Worcester Fellowship! A special offering will support the Metrowest Immigrant Solidarity Network. Please give generously as you are able.

In the name of God and Jesus Christ, Edwards Church, a congregation of the United Church of Christ, welcomes all who seek to know and worship God. We invite everyone to join in our faith journey and participate in our congregational life.

As a community of faith we take seriously the Biblical call to love God and our neighbors as ourselves, and recognize that although we are many members we are one. We celebrate the uniqueness of everyone. We rejoice in our diversity of views and understanding of our shared faith. We commit ourselves to work diligently to help end oppression and discrimination. We affirm all relationships founded on the principle of God's love and justice.

We declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation. Seeking to be the Body of Christ, we welcome into full fellowship and membership all persons of every race, language, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, physical or cognitive ability, and economic status.

Edwards Church
39 Edwards Street
Framingham, Massachusetts

edwardschurch.org