

Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year



Tecumseh United Church
~ *An Affirming Congregation* ~
Christmas Eve 2024 7pm

6:30pm ~ "Special Musical Presentation"

**The congregation is invited to sing "In the Bleak Midwinter" to close the presentation.*

Lighting the Advent Candles:

Light of the World, be our guide.

Reveal to us the radiant glory of hope and peace in our world too often overshadowed by injustice.

Illumine the way of kindness, compassion, and harmony.

Let it begin with each one of us.

We pray in the name of the glorious Christ. Amen.

Call to Worship:

O come, all you who are faithful or fearful, joyful or despairing.
Come to Bethlehem once again to behold the baby.

O come, let us adore him!

We follow in the footsteps of shepherds.

We sing with the angels: Glory to God in the highest!

On this holy night, by candlelight,

O come, let us adore him!

**Hymn # 60 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

Opening Prayer:

God of the heavens, we gather here tonight to witness the retelling of the birth of your son Jesus Christ. We pause and imagine being among the shepherds and noticing as our fear turns to joy at the proclamation of the birth of this miraculous baby boy. We experience the vibrations of the angels raised in songs of praise and find ourselves joining in.

We gather the sheep and hasten to that small village of Bethlehem where we find Mary and Joseph and the beautiful baby gifted to them by you, O God. Then we are with the shepherds as they fall to their knees and humble themselves before the manger while Mary listens to their stories of the angels who appeared. We begin to understand the hope that this birth brings to earth, as we notice the peace that comes upon these humble shepherds, feel the joy as Mary and Joseph cradle their precious newborn, and experience, in the stable, the love that you, O God, have for us. As we receive anew this old, old story, bless us once again with the gift of your son, our Rock and Salvation. Amen.

Choir Anthem ~ CELTIC NATIVITY SONG

by Stewart and Nolan

Communion

Choir Anthem ~ NIGHT OF THE FATHER'S LOVE

by Rouse & Fettke

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-20

Meditation

Choir Anthem ~ WOULD I MISS THE MIRACLE

Arr. Pepper Choplin

Offertory/Prayers of the People

**Hymn # 67 "Silent Night, Holy Night"*