

WILLMAR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
CHRISTMAS EVE LESSONS AND CAROLS with HOLY COMMUNION  
5:00 pm December 24, 2021

Introit Lo! Your Lord Is Here!

Proclamation of the Birth of Christ Don Donato

Hymn #234 (1-3) O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING The Hettver Family

Reader 1: The time has come! Emmanuel – ‘God with us’ – is here!

**People: O come, let us adore him!**

Reader 2: This Advent season, we have brought our uncertainties to God. We have offered them up and made room in our hearts to receive the miracle of the Word made flesh. Here, on this night, we wait with eager expectation.

**People: Let every heart prepare him room.**

Reader 1: We do not do this because we have everything figured out, or because we always feel hope, or peace, or joy, or even love. We light these candles to remind us that even when we cannot see the Light, it is always shining.

**People: Christ our Lord, Emmanuel, is with us.**

Reader 2: Soon we will place the Christ candle in the center of our Advent wreath. Even in the midst of our uncertainties and struggles, Jesus is with us. Christ is our Light.

**ALL: On this Christmas Eve, Lord, we offer our uncertain hearts to you. Open our hearts to the miracle of your birth. Fill us with hope. Grant us your peace. Renew our joy, and help us to know your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

Hymn #234 (4-6) O Come, All Ye Faithful

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 David Parker

*Isaiah foretells Christ’s birth and kingdom*

Lo, How A Rose E’er Blooming Bruce Taylor, piano

SECOND LESSON Luke 1:26-35, 38 Lori Somerville

*The angel Gabriel salutes the Virgin Mary.*

Hymn #240 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

THIRD LESSON Luke 2:1-7 Bruce Taylor

*Jesus is born.*

A STORY FOR CHILDREN The Night of First Christmas

Make Room Women’s Quartet

FOURTH LESSON Luke 2:8-14 Wendy Nelsen

*The angels announce the good news of great joy*

Hymn #238 Angels We Have Heard on High

FIFTH LESSON Luke 2:15-20 Guy Nelsen

*The shepherds rejoice and share the good news.*

Welcome to Our World

Jo Anne & Bruce Taylor

A WORD OF INVITATION

Pastor Jo Anne

COMMUNION

Invitation, Confession, Pardon, Words of Assurance & Peace  
The Great Thanksgiving, Words of Institution & Consecration  
The Bread And Cup, Prayer of Thanksgiving

Away In A Manger

Bruce Taylor, piano

SIXTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

Pastor Jo Anne

*John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.*

PROCESSION OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*Please help children snap their glow sticks before lighting your own candle.  
Tip your unlit candle into the flame to receive the light as it is passed to you.  
At the end of the service, you may return your candle to the table in the lobby.*

Hymn #239

Silent Night, Holy Night

Hymn #246

Joy to the World

Benediction

Postlude