



Sebastian United Methodist Church

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

December 24, 2019

Welcome to Worship

Opening Voluntary	"O Come All Ye Faithful" arr. John C. Dare	Joyful Ringers	4:00 PM
	"Away in a Manager"	Megan Mash	7:00 PM
Welcome			Pastor John Gill
Call to Worship			
*Hymn # 234	"O Come All Ye Faithful" stanzas 1-5		ADESTE FIDELES
Lighting of the Christ Candle		Ann and Ron McCullough	4:00 PM
		Sharon and Ed Johnson	7:00 PM

O unexpected Jesus, we have been waiting in great anticipation for this night.

We come to meet you this night.

Tonight you crept in beside us as a tiny baby.

We come to meet you this night.

Tonight you changed the course of history.

We come to meet you this night.

Tonight you showed us your great love.

We come to meet you this night.

Tonight, God Incarnate, you came to live among us.

We come to meet you this night.

(sung)

He came down to earth from heaven

who is God and Lord of all,

and his shelter was a stable,

and his cradle was a stall.

With the poor, the scorned, the lowly

lived on earth our Savior holy.

As we light the Christ candle, we are reminded of your light, Incarnate Christ. We are reminded that you chose to come and live among us. We are reminded that this act shows your great love for us because it will eventually lead to the cross.

We come with grateful hearts, O God, that you sent us the Christ Child. As we receive him anew this night, restore the light within each of us so your joy and love may shine through us. Open our hearts to the transformational power of your grace this Christmas season. Amen.

***Hymn # 238**

“Angels We Have Heard On High”

GLORIA

***Prayer of Illumination**

***Reading of the Holy Gospel**

Luke 2:1-20

(KJV)

Prayer

On this holy night, we celebrate the joy of the birth of the Christ Child.

We remember Elizabeth and her joy of bearing John the Baptist. Help us to seek God’s unexpected, joyful miracles.

Christ, Come and transform our lives.

We remember Zechariah who was unable to imagine the faithfulness and greatness of God. Help us in times of doubt and uncertainty to trust in God’s unfailing love.

Christ, Come and transform our lives.

We remember Mary who possessed great faith. Help us to place our trust in your plans, O God, no matter the size, as we rest assured in your promises.

Christ, Come and transform our lives.

We remember Joseph who heard and obeyed to your voice. Help us to intentionally listen for your voice above the crowd, O God.

Christ, Come and transform our lives.

We remember the angels who sang the great news of the joyous birth of the Savior. Help us God to raise our voices each day in praise of your wonderful works.

Christ, Come and transform our lives.

We remember the shepherds who left their fields to worship the King. Help us to worship you in all that we do, both inside and outside these walls.

Christ, Come and transform our lives.

We remember the wise men who traveled a far distance to share their gifts with the Christ child. Help us, O God, to share all our gifts generously.

Christ, Come and transform our lives.

Eternal God, as we reflect on Christ’s birth, we reflect on how to be more faithful to your calling. Despite our faithfulness and striving, we often fall short. Forgive us we pray. Free us so we can joyfully live in obedience and love as your servants on earth. **Amen.**

Gospel Reading

John 1:29b

(NKJV)

Meditation

“Mary Had a Little Lamb”

Rev. John Gill

Offering

Presentation of money gifts for the Ecumenical Council
(Place Visitor/Prayer requests cards in the offering plate)

Offertory Anthem

“Away in a Manager”

Joyful Ringers 4:00 p.m.

arr. John C. Dare

“Angels’ Carol”

Choir 7:00 p.m.

by John Rutter

Celebration of the Lord's Table

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

(All those desiring a closer relationship with God are welcome to receive Communion, regardless of church membership. Children may receive, at the discretion of their parents/guardian. We serve by “intinction”, which is the act of dipping the bread into the juice. A gluten-free station is available at the communion table)

***Lighting of the Candles**

7:00 PM

Hymn # 239

“Silent Night”

STILLE NACHT

***The Christmas Blessing**

***Hymn # 246**

“Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH

**Congregation Stand As Able*

When lighting candles hold the lit candle upright to avoid dripping wax.

A Service of Lesson’s and Carols

Sunday, December 29, 2019

10:00 a.m.



**LESSONS
&
CAROLS**

the promise of the Messiah - the birth of Jesus
Scripture - carols - choral music - hymns

Lead Pastor

Rev. John Gill

Music Minister

Megan Mash, MSM

Liturgist

Sharon Johnson

4:00 PM

Mary Lou Rothfuss

7:00 PM

Media

Ed Johnson

4:00 PM

Alan Hulse

Daniel Green

7:00 PM

Alan Hulse

Acolytes

Connie Judisch

7:00 PM

Ushers

Eileen Harding

Carolyn & Sam Roper

Bob Stull