



Rev. John Gill

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

*Music Minister, Megan Mash, MSM*

*December 24, 2020 ~ 4 pm. Live Stream on Facebook  
7 pm In-person outside across from church office*

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## ***Welcome to Worship***

**Opening Voluntary**

“Away in a Manager”

Handbells

**Call to Worship**

*We gather this night to seek the Christ Child.*

**Incarnate Christ, sow in us your love.**

*We gather this night to be transformed.*

**Incarnate Christ, sow in us your peace.**

*We gather this night to celebrate new life.*

**Incarnate Christ, sow in us your joy.**

*We gather this night to witness God’s promises fulfilled.*

**Incarnate Christ, sow in us your hope.**

**\*Hymn # 234**

“O Come All Ye Faithful” stanzas 1-5

ADESTE FIDELES

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

Donna & Bill Osborne, Katie & Jackie Gowin

*Despair has cast a shadow around us.*

**May we find hope this night.**

*Sometimes it is overwhelming.*

**May we find hope this night.**

*Open our eyes to see your guiding star.*

**May we find hope this night.**

(What Child Is This- Stanza 1 Sung)

*What child is this who, laid to rest,*

*on Mary’s lap is sleeping?*

*Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,*

*while shepherds watch are keeping?*

*This, this is Christ the King,*

*who shepherds guard and angels sing;*

*haste, haste to bring him laud,*

*the babe, the son of Mary.*

O God, hope is what we are seeking. Just as the shepherds and wisemen sought after the newborn child, we now seek hope. Hope for second chances, changed hearts and new birth. This year has brought despair that has caused many to lose hope. Open our eyes to the ways your hope continues to be present in our lives; a card from a friend, a phone call from a loved one, or dinner from a neighbor. Tonight, as we light the Christ Candle, remind us of one of the greatest gifts Christ gives us this season, the gift of hope. May it cast out despair and enable us to love more fully, create peace more willingly and dance more joyfully. May it reorient us towards light of Christ that casts out the darkness. Amen.

<b>*Hymn # 219</b>	“What Child is This” stanza 2 & 3	GREENSLEEVES
<b>*Prayer of Illumination</b>		
<b>*Reading of the Holy Gospel</b>	Luke 2:1-20	
<b>Anthem</b>	“Carol of Joy” by Dan Forrest	Virtual Choir
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	1 Peter 1:3-9	
<b>Meditation</b>	#4: Hope in the Midst of Despair	Rev. John Gill
<b>Receiving of our Offerings and Gifts for the Ecumenical Council</b>		
<b>Offertory # 230</b>	“O Little Town of Bethlehem”	ST. LOUIS
<b>Celebration of the Lord's Table</b>		
<b>*Lighting of the Candles</b>		
<b>Hymn # 239</b>	“Silent Night”	STILLE NACHT
<b>*The Christmas Blessing</b>		

*May the Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and good will; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.*  
**Amen.**

**\*stand as able**



**DECEMBER 27**

*A Service of Lessons & Carols*

We are joined for this worship service by  
the First Presbyterian Church Choir  
from Corning, IA

Listen to the joint virtual choirs as they  
sing the lessons

Facebook only

*[www.facebook.com/sebastianumc](http://www.facebook.com/sebastianumc)*

No In Person Worship on December 27

A Service of Lessons and Carols will be on Facebook only