

*** We invite you to stand as you are able**

OPENING HYMN* "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" vs. 1 Black Hymnal 131

STATEMENT OF WELCOME TO ALL AND FOR ALL*

All: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome here.

GREETING

We invite all to sign the pads in the pews to stay connected with the church.

CALL TO WORSHIP*

One: A light shining in the darkness . . .

All: What could it be?

One: The sound of angels' wings . . .

All: What could it mean?

One: A baby born in a stable . . .

All: Come to Bethlehem and see.

OPENING PRAYER*

**All: O wondrous God of the stars,
we come tonight with breathless wonder
to see the babe who will change our lives.
We hear the names "Wonderful Counselor,"
"Mighty God," "Prince of Peace,"
and we are in awe.
You have touched the earth this night
with your unconditional love.
May we never tire of this story.
May we never take it for granted.
Make this night magical again. Amen.**

HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem" vs. 1 & 2 Red Hymnal #230

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES & CHRIST CANDLE

CHILDREN'S STORY "The Christmas Blessing" by Erin Guendelsberger

HYMN "Away in a Manger" Black Hymnal 124

FIRST READING Isaiah 9:2-7 (CEB)

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.
On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.
You have made the nation great;
you have increased its joy.

They rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest,
as those who divide plunder rejoice.
As on the day of Midian, you've shattered the yoke that burdened them,
the staff on their shoulders,
and the rod of their oppressor.

Because every boot of the thundering warriors,
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned, fuel for the fire.

A child is born to us, a son is given to us,
and authority will be on his shoulders.

He will be named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

There will be vast authority and endless peace
for David's throne and for his kingdom,
establishing and sustaining it
with justice and righteousness
now and forever.

HYMN "O Come, All Ye Faithful" vs. 1 & 3 Red Hymnal 234

GOSPEL READING* Luke 2:1-14 (CEB)

In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

HYMN* "Silent Night, Holy Night" Red Hymnal 239

GOSPEL READING CONTINUED*... Luke 2:15-20 (CEB)

Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."

MESSAGE "God's Heart" Pastor Anne Kadue

OFFERING "O Holy Night" Special Guest Ed Freitag

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our God, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN "Joy to the World" vs. 1 & 2 Red Hymnal 246

BENEDICTION & SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

We welcome all persons of every age, gender identity, racial or ethnic background, sexual orientation, marital or socioeconomic status, nationality, and physical or mental ability into full participation in the life of this faith community. We are committed to the reconciliation of all persons as children of God and declare ourselves to be a Reconciling Congregation.

CHURCH STAFF & WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Anne Kadue	Lead Pastor
Ed Freitag	Special Guest Musician
Donald Birttnen	Worship Tech Assistant
Donna Zilge	Office Assistant
James Prince	Custodian
Judy Lieffring	Choir & Music Director
Mike Nelson	Bell Choir Director

You are loved. ❤️

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Welcome to
Newport United Methodist Church &
Community United Church of Christ

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 24, 2022