

Prelude Peter Van Keuren

Lighting of the Christ Candle *Christ, Be Our Light* Farrell

Congregation joins on refrain

Christ, Be Our Light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness

Christ be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today

Words of Welcome Rev. Amy Gregory

Call to Worship by Rev. Thom Shuman

On this holiest of nights,
**we come, joining the shepherds
who are stunned by wonder.**

On this most silent night,
**we come, our hopes and dreams
joining those of Mary and Joseph.**

On this nights of carols and candlelight,
**we come, our glad songs joining
with the choirs of angels over us.**

***Carol** *O Come, All Ye Faithful, vs. 1, 3, 6* UM Hymnal #234

The Story Isaiah 11:1–9 Orion Marchese

The promise: a reign of justice for the poor and peace for all God's creation.

Anthem *Nativity Carol* Rutter

Carol *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear vs. 1, 2, 4* UM Hymnal #218

The Story Luke 1:26–33

A messenger brings God's promise to a young woman named Mary.

Anthem *Gentle Mary Laid Her Baby* Cook/MacDonald

* You are invited to stand as you are able or comfortable.

The Story Luke 2:1-7 Cathy Bryson
Against a backdrop of emperors and taxes, Jesus is born.

***Carol** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* UM Hymnal #240

The Christmas Offering Pastor Brendan Fox

Please see information on the back page about the ways our gifts will be used to help others. Thank you for your generosity.

Offertory *On Christmas Night* Traditional English melody

***Doxology** (To the tune of *Away in a Manger*) UM Hymnal #217

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!**

***Prayer of Dedication**

The Story Luke 2:8–20

The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world and find him lying in a manger.

Anthem *Adore Him* Widbin

Carol *Angels We Have Heard on High vs. 1, 3* UM Hymnal #238

The Story Matthew 2:1–11 Kristen Reck

The wise ones follow a star to find the Divine Child Jesus

Carol *The First Noel, vs. 1, 2* UM Hymnal #245

The Story John 1:1–14

The great mystery of the Incarnation.

Carol *Silent Night, Holy Night vs. 1-4* UM Hymnal #239

As the light is passed from the Christ candle down each row, please receive the light and pass it on. Please hold your lighted candle upright, dipping the unlit candle to take the flame.

Response to the Light

Sing to the Lord a new song.

Joy to the World!

A child has been born, the Prince of Peace.

Joy to the World!

The light of God's love shines through all creation.

Joy to the World!

Please extinguish your candles

*Carol

Joy to the World, vs. 1, 2, 4

UM Hymnal #246

*Benediction

Choral Benediction *Like Roses in Winter*

Postlude

Christmas Offering

Our Christmas offering helps neighbors near and far. Our church keeps none of your gifts received from this offering. This year we will again support:

Schenectady Community Ministries

RISSE (Support for Refugees and Immigrants)

Captain, CHS (Community Human Services) and food pantries of SICM/Schenectady

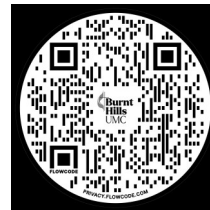
Inner City Ministry

Chocacente Scholars (Managua, Nicaragua)

Lifeworks in Ballston Spa and Rensselaer UMC

The Guardian House Future Playground Fund

You may present your donation by visiting our church website at: nybhumc.com/online-giving.html. There is a dropdown box for the Christmas Offering. **Thank you for your generous offering for people in need. Merry Christmas!**



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