

A Christmas Eve Celebration with Lessons & Carols

December 24, 2024 9pm

Prelude *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*
14th century Latin; translation by J. M. Neale - German melody

Lighting of the Advent Candles and the Christ Candle by Cheryl Lawrie, adapted

We light this candle because we have heard a promise of peace
and we have faith its day will come
We light this candle because we have heard a rumour of justice
and we have faith its day will come
We light this candle because we have heard a whisper of hope
and we have faith its day will come
We light this candle because we have heard a hint of love
and we have faith its day will come
We light this candle because we have heard of the birth of the Christ child
and we have faith his day is here.

Song *Christ, Be Our Light* Farrell
Congregation joins on the 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 B. Gregory

***Call to Worship** by Cheryl Lawrie

We gather as people of faith and no faith,
people of hope and no hope,
people of peace and no peace.
**We gather with the longing to be made whole again
if just for this time, here and now.**
We gather with a prayer, however vague and tenuous,
that in spite of the absence of virgins and angels,
wise men and shepherds,

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

We might still be a witness to the birth of all love.
We gather as ready as we'll ever be for this story of faith to unfold.

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

The Story Isaiah 11:1–9 Karen Lathrop
The promise: a reign of justice for the poor and peace for all God's creation.

Anthem *Promise of Peace* Bowring/Hayes

Carol *O Little Town of Bethlehem, vs 1, 2,4* UMH #230

The Story Luke 1:26–38 Maddy Hicks
A messenger brings God's promise to a young woman named Mary.

Anthem *Awaken and Prepare Us* Frombach/Hayes

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

***Carol** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* UMH #240

The Christmas Offering Pastor Ian Carlos Urriola
Thank you for your generosity! Information on the insert about the ways your gifts will be used to support BHUMC's ministry or to provide a helping hand to our neighbors through the Special Christmas Offering.

Offertory *Of Thy Father's Love Begotten* 11th century Sanctus trope

***Doxology** (To the tune of *Away in a Manger*) UMH #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 Kristen Reck
The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world and find him lying in a manger.

Anthem *Jazz Gloria* Sleeth

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

The Story Matthew 2:1–11 Libby Horn
The wise ones follow a star to find the Divine Child Jesus

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

The Story John 1:1–14 Pastor Ian Carlos Urriola
The great mystery of the Incarnation.

Carol *Silent Night, Holy Night vs. 1-4* UMH #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* UMH #246

***Benediction**

Choral Benediction *Make Way, Make Way* Kendrick

Postlude *Away In A Manger* Murray

* * *

Burnt Hills United Methodist Church
816 Route 50, Burnt Hills, New York 12027
518-399-5144 burnthillsumc@gmail.com



www.nybhmc.com

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram

www.facebook.com/BurntHillsUMC

burnthillsumc518

