

THE ANTHEM
“*Thus Angels Sung*”

Altar Choir
David Music

THE PROCLAMATION

Pastor Steve Beutler

“That Still Small Voice”

WE DEDICATE OURSELVES TO GOD

RESPONDING TO GOD IN OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

(If you are visiting this morning, you are our guest. If Grace U.M. Church is your home, remember that the biblical expectation is that you will give your tithe to your church. May we all remember that giving to God in response to His great love is the most celebrative moment of corporate worship. Today's loose coin offering is dedicated to CAM.)

The Giving of our Tithes and Offering

The Offertory

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

*The Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Hymn 230

*THE HYMN OF INVITATION

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

(The altar of this church is open to you...come.

Come to witness, come to repent, come to pray.)

Hymn 230

*THE CHIMES AND SERVICE OF LIGHT

(The Living Flame on the altar reminds us that we must carry the message of God's grace and love out from this sanctuary into the world.)

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE CHORAL RESPONSE

“*What Can I Give Him*”

What can I give Him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;

If I were a Wiseman I would do my part;

Yet what can I give Him? Give Him my heart.

Altar Choir
Don Cason

THE POSTLUDE

“*Fum, Fum, Fum*” traditional Catalonian Carol

Mark Hayes



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH THE ORDER FOR WORSHIP

December 24, 2006
9:25 a.m.

Christmas Eve
Liturgical Color: Blue

Hymn 220

WE OPEN OUR LIVES TO GOD

*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

HOLIDAY CAROL SING

(Members of the congregation are invited to request that we sing one stanza of a favorite Christmas hymn or carol from our Hymnal.)

There was a gift for each of us left under the Tree of Life two thousand years ago by the one whose birthday we now celebrate. The gift was withheld from no one. Some have left their packages unclaimed. Some have accepted the gift and carried it around, but have failed to remove the wrappings and look inside to discover the hidden splendor. The packages are all alike: in each is a scroll on which is written, *"All that the Father hath is thine. Take and live!"*

(The asterisk (*) designates when the congregation will please stand.

Worshippers who find standing difficult are invited to remain seated.

Worshippers are encouraged to turn off their cell phones while they are in the sanctuary.

Bold print is read or sung by the congregation.)

WE GATHER TOGETHER FOR WORSHIP

THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(You are invited to sign and pass the Ritual of Friendship pads.

When it reaches the end of the pew, please pass it back so that all may note those worshipping today.

Cards are available in the pew for those desiring to request prayer or praise

for specific needs, concerns and joys. Please place the card in the offering plate during the offering.)

THE PRELUDE

"Come Down, O Love Divine" Hymn 475

Charles Callahan

WE PREPARE OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

The Quartet

"A Little Night Caroling"

Kasey May, Melanie May, Katelyn Kingseed, Rachel Bates

Ruth Elaine Schram

*THE CHIMES AND SERVICE OF LIGHT

(The congregation stands with the first note of the chimes.

The lighted candles on the altar symbolize the presence of God's Holy Spirit.

The Holy Bible is facing the congregation as a reminder that God's Word is open and available to all.)

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever. (Luke 1:32-33a)

All: **As the angel voices announce the coming of the Son of God, so we hear God's promises, and we surrender ourselves to God's direction.**

Leader: Last week we lit the third candle, the candle of waiting. Before that, we lit the candle of anticipation and the candle of preparation.

(Light two purple candles and the pink candle in the Advent wreath.)

Today we light the fourth candle, the candle of annunciation. We hear angel voices telling us of the coming of the Christ Child, just as shepherds did years ago.

(Light the last purple candle.)

All: **So often we are unable to hear God's word for us because we are occupied with other things. Sometimes we do not hear because of the level of noise we create for ourselves. We pray for silence on our part, so we can hear your words for us today and obey. Hear us now as we pray, each in our own words and in our own way.**

Moments of Silent Prayer

(Those desiring to come to the altar for prayer are welcome to kneel or stand.)

The Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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.

WE HEAR THE LIVING WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Kings 19: 9-12
(Pew Bible Page 255)