Chebeague Community Church

Christmas Eve Service of Candles and Carols

December 24th, 2022

#### WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Welcome

\*Call to Worship

 One: God of creation, shaper of seas and stars, of planets and

 people, of sacred beauty and sacred being -

 **All: This God is here with us.**

 One: God, born in Bethlehem, gurgling, crying, laid in a manger -

 **All: This God is here with us.**

 One: God, breath of the universe, flickering, dancing in the candle flame -

 **All: This God is here with us.**

 One: God, Immanuel, Divine-in-Flesh, among us, within us

 **All: We bring ourselves and our dreams, for we want to be here with you.**

\*Hymn O Come, All Ye Faithful, v. 1-3, 6 UMH #234

\*Unison Prayer

**Holy One, you have appeared in the flesh, bringing redemption to all, your glory is made known in this newborn child, this living, blessed hope. Tonight we sing a new song—**

**a song of justice, righteousness, and endless peace. Gift of God, beautiful Christ-child, we welcome you! Let love be born anew in our hearts on this joyous night. Amen.**

WE LISTEN TO GOD’S WORD

Special Music O Holy Night

Reading Isaiah 9:2-7 Michael Yosua-Davis

 *Lighting the Candle of Hope*

\*Hymn Lo, How A Rose E’er Blooming UMH #216

Reading Luke 1:26-38 Adia Ameswright

\*Hymn It Came Upon the Midnight Clear, v1 and 4 UMH #218

Reading Matthew 1:18-25 Cathy MacNeill

*Lighting the Candle of Love*

\*Hymn O Little Town of Bethlehem, v1 and 4 UMH #230

Reading Luke 2:1-7 Betsy Gaston

\*Hymn What Child Is This, v 1 and 2 UMH 219

Time for the Children

Reading Luke 2:8-14 Polly Wentworth

*Lighting the Candle of Joy*

\*Hymn Angels We Have Heard on High UMH #238

Reading Luke 2:15-21 Mary Holt

\*Hymn In the Bleak Midwinter, v1, 3 and 4 UMH #221

Reading Matthew 2:1-12 Denise Hamilton

*Lighting the Candle of Peace*

\*Hymn The First Noel, v1, 2 and 5 UMH #245

Reading John 1:1-14 Rochelle Rice

*Lighting the Christ Candle*

\*Hymn Joy to the World UMH #246

Lighting of the Candles

*Please share the light of Christ with your neighbor by holding your light steady while your neighbor tips their candle to ignite their wick. We will join together in singing “Silent Night.” You may leave your candle on the table in the entry as you leave.*

\*Hymn Silent Night UMH #239 or insert

\*Benediction

 One: Mysterious God, confounding our expectations, meeting us where we least expect to find you:

 **All: Stay with us now.**

 One: Child of the manger, sharing our humanity, loving skin and bone:

 **All: Stay with us now.**

 One: Source of Life, birth of God within our own experience:

 **All: Stay with us now.**

 One: Stay with us in our beings, stay with us on our journeys

 **All: Walk beside us, live within us, lead us in love.**

Announcements

Rev. Mary Jane O'Connor-Ropp has agreed to provide pastoral coverage for emergencies or funerals for January through March.  Many will remember Mary Jane as our pastor several years ago.  She will also come to preach and serve communion once a month for those three months.  Welcome back, Mary Jane!
**Rev. Mary Jane O'Connor-Ropp's phone number:  207-604-7841**

**January Sundays in the Parish House!**

January 1 Lock Kiermaier will present an illustrated program about Little Chebeague

January 8 TBA

January 15 TBA

January 22 Rev. Mary Jane O’Connor-Ropp – communion will be served

January 29 Membership Annual Meeting

Church Council meeting, Sunday, January 15 at noon, in-person at the Parish House and via Zoom.



*Image by Virginia Wieringa*

Chebeague Community Church

Christmas Eve 2022

Service of Candles and Carols

7 PM

 **Silent Night**

1. Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin
mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

3. Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
radiant beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

4. Silent night, holy night,
wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

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