

Christmas Eve Service

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(✠ All are invited to stand.)

Prelude "What Child is This" *Setting by John Behnke*
"Sing We Now of Christmas" *Setting by Douglas Wagner*
"Stille Nacht" *David Paxton*

Greeting

It's Christmas Eve! How quickly this time has come upon us!

We are breathless. Still so much to be done.

Calm your spirits. Take time to hear the wondrous news.

Open our ears to hear Mary's Story

Believe in the good news!

We believe and rejoice! God's love is here with us!

Amen.

Welcome of Members and Guests

✠Opening Hymn, UMH, No. 224

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

Lighting of the Christ Candle

O almighty God, by the birth of your holy child
Jesus you gave us a great light to dawn on our
darkness.

Grant that in his light we may see light.

**Bestow upon us that most excellent Christmas gift
of love to all people,
so that the likeness of your Son may be formed
in us,**

**and that we may have the ever brightening hope
of everlasting life;**

through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Duet "New Shining Star" L.P. Butler & Christine Piche'

Unison Prayer

**O God our Father, you have brought us again to the
glad season when we celebrate the birth of your
Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Grant that his Spirit may be born anew in our hearts
this day and that we may joyfully welcome him
to reign over us.**

**Open our ears that we may hear again the angelic
chorus of old.**

**Open our lips that we, too, may sing with uplifted
hearts.**

**Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth, peace, goodwill toward all;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Solo "O Holy Night" L.P. Butler

First Testament Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Pew Bibles: NRSV, pg. 600 OT RSV, pg. 604 OT

✠Christmas Carol, UMH, No. 249

"There's a Song in the Air"

Second Testament Reading: Luke 2:1-20

Pew Bibles: NRSV, pg. 54 NT RSV, pg. 53 NT

Christmas Message "Words to Treasure"

Pastor Clara Gestwick

Service of the Table, No. 17 UMH "Setting A"

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.

During communion the congregation may sing a few verses from the following carols.

No. 230, UMH "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

No. 234, UMH "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

No. 238, UMH "Angels We Have
Heard on High"

No. 245, UMH "The First Noel"

No. 246, UMH "Joy to the World"

[We commune by intinction this evening. At the ushers' direction, please come to the nearest communion station and stand to receive the bread and cup. A server will place the bread in your hand, after which you will dip the bread into the chalice and partake. After receiving, please take a candle to use during our congregational candle-lighting. Then, you may return to your seats, or kneel at the rail, for prayer and meditation. If you need assistance, or need to be served communion at your seat, please contact one of the ushers. When you come forward for communion please bring your Christmas Miracle Offering and place it in the basket at the altar rail.]

✠Candle-lighting Hymn, "Silent Night, Holy Night"

[The ushers will light their candles from the altar candles then they will proceed to light the candle of the person at the end of the pew. Please light your candle by tilting your unlit candle to the lit candle.]

**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.**

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!

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.

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!

Dismissal in Silence

✠ **The Postlude** "O Come All Ye Faithful"
Setting by John Behnke

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Welcome to St. Luke's on this happy Christmas Eve! We are
an inclusive, Christ-centered community of faith seeking
through worship, prayer, service, education and fellowship to
respond creatively to God's call to welcome, love and care for
others.

"**The Christmas Miracle**" is our Christmas Eve offering for
our Good Samaritan Fund. Families are encouraged to
consider bringing to church on Christmas Eve a sum equal to
the amount spent on your family's gifts for Christmas. The
collected offerings will be put into our Good Samaritan Fund,
which helps those less fortunate in York and Poquoson
Counties. This fund has seen an enormous increase in usage.
Please consider joining the rest of the church in making a
miracle this Christmas.

Join us each Sunday morning for worship at 8:30, 9:45, and
11:00. Sunday school begins at 9:45 A.M. More information
about our ministries is on the kiosk in the narthex and on our
website, www.stlukesyorktown.org.

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St. Luke's Ministry Team

- Ministers..... The People of St. Luke's
- Presiding Bishop Charlene P. Kammerer
- District Superintendent..... Rev. Myrtle F. Hatcher
- Senior Pastor..... Rev. Douglas Gestwick
- Associate Pastor Rev. Clara Gestwick
- Director, Discipleship Ministries. Mr. James Pace
- Business Manager..... Mr. Bill Boyer
- Communications Coordinator Mrs. Megan Collins
- Director, Youth Ministries..... Mr. Nate DeHart
- Director, Preschool..... Mrs. Diana Donnelly
- Director, Nursery Ministries Ms. Svejlana Mastilovic
- Director, Music Ministries Mr. Gordon Parr
- Organist-Accompanist Mr. Mark Smeland
- Administrative Coordinator..... Mrs. Joyce Wilson

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

300 Ella Taylor Road
Yorktown, Virginia 23692



A Christmas Celebration
Christmas Eve
December 24, 2009
Nine o'clock in the Evening

*Christian disciples called to transform our
community and world through God's love*

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