



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Highland Park United Methodist Church

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<http://www.gbgm-umc.org/hpumc-seattle>

Highland Park United Methodist Church
December 24, 2008

Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2008 – 7 PM

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

*Call to Worship

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: We gather to celebrate the birth of the One who is the light of the world.

People: **We are here to worship God - and his Son Jesus - born this night in Bethlehem of Judea.**

Leader: Christ is our hope and our salvation. He calls us to share our hope in Him with each other. He is our peace and our joy.

People: **Even in the lowly manger, we see what his sacrifice will be**

Leader: And we pay homage to Him, for it is His love for us that brings Him here.

All: **It is His love for us that brings us here.**

*Opening Hymn *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”* **UMH#234**

Welcome & Passing of the Peace

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Carol *“The First Noel”* **UMH #245**

Leader: We light the candle of hope to remind us that our hope is in Jesus Christ.

Reader: Christ is the Light of the World. Come forward; share in His light.

(Christmas Carols are sung as people process to light their individual candles from the flames in the bowl.)

[O Little Town of Bethlehem](#)

Hymn#230

[Silent Night, Holy Night](#)

Hymn#239

Christmas Prayer: *(Unison)*

Almighty God, you have made this night holy by the gift of your Son who is the light of the World. May we, in this light, see how much God loved us through Christ. Upon Him rested all your grace, through Him has come all your mercy. Let His light shine within our hearts tonight and throughout our lives. Amen

People: Rejoice! Christ the Savior is Born!

*Closing Song

“Joy to the World”

UMH#246

*Benediction

Pastor Steve Granadosin

*Congregational Response

“Lutkins Benediction”

insert

POSTLUDE *(Bringing the Light to the World)*

**At this sign, those who are able, please rise;*

UMH refers to the United Methodist Hymnal;

FWS refers to the hymnbook “The Faith We Sing”

People: Christ is our hope He loved us and sent His only Begotten Son as a ransom to free us from sin.

Leader: We light the candle of peace to remind us that it is only with God and by following in his path that true peace can be found.

All: Christ brings the peace of God to us. He calls us to share the peace he gives with each other.

Carol "Away In a Manger" **UMH #217**

Leader: We light the candle of joy to remind us that God gives joy to every heart that abides in Him.

People: As Mary rejoiced in the birth of Jesus - so his birth in us brings us joy. God calls us to share the joy He gives with each other.

Leader: We light the candle of love to remind us that Jesus is God's gift of love to us - and that in Him, the light of love triumphs over darkness.

People: Love never fails - it transforms all those who give it and receive it. God calls us to share his love with each other.

Carol "What Child Is This?" **UMH#219**

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Leader: We light the Christ candle to remind us that the light of the world was born this night.

People: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness – on them a light has come to shine.

Leader: You, O Lord, have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy.

People: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder.

Leader: His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

People: He is also called Emmanuel. For in him, God is with us.

Offertory **We Bring Our Gifts**

"...wise men from the East came ... On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (Matthew 2:1,11)." Just as the wise men offered only the best to the newborn king, let us give only of our very best.

***Doxology** **UMH # 95**

***Prayer of Gratitude** (*Unison*)

We are in awe of the love you show. We do not deserve your generosity yet we accept it knowing that through your gift on the manger in Bethlehem, you teach us how to be as generous and as loving. Accept our humble offerings, made pure and deserving only by your Son's sacrifice on the cross.

Special Music The Granadosins

Meditation Pastor Steve Granadosin

CANDLE PROCESSION

Christmas Story **Luke 2:1-20**

(A reader reads the Christmas Story. While the story is being read, the lights in the sanctuary are slowly dimmed while tea candles floating in a clear bowl are lit from the flame of the Christ Candle. Water is symbolic of our own baptism, a symbol of what God does for us in Christ. The tiny lights floating in the water signify how Christ's light has shined on us, and in turn, we bring His light into the world.)