



Silver Falls United Church



December 24, 2016

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*Tonight's service is being led by Rev. Steven Longmoore
 Congregational Responses are in Bold print.*

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

Hymn **O Come, All Ye Faithful** **VU 60**

Call to Worship and Lighting of Advent Wreath

One: Later, there would be questions...

All: ...why them? Why there?

One: Later, there would be visitors...

All: relatives, friends, and strange strangers.

One: Later, there would be celebration...

All: choirs of little angels, and well-intentioned gifts.

One: But right in that moment...

All: Right in this moment...

One: It was just them...

All: It is just us...

One: and God.

One: God, we give you thanks for all those who, like Isaiah, believed in a better future.

All: Their lives give us Hope.

Light Candle of Hope

One: Help us to recall the hands that, like John, showered us with the waters of your grace.

All: Their lives lead us to Peace.

Light Candle of Peace

One: We light this candle in remembrance of the people who, like Mary, taught us to see you in the darkness.

All: Their lives bring us Joy.

Light Candle of Joy

One: And, for all of those who, like Joseph, welcomed us, no matter who we were or what we had done, we ask your blessing.

All: Their lives teach us that Love always wins.

Light Candle of Love

All: Amen.

One: There have been many before us who have borne your light, bringing the sacred Christmas story to life in each new generation. These are the ones who have been our witness, calling out to us in our longest night,

All: “Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy!”

One: Let us pray.

All: We give thanks for all who have borne your light, God. May we remember the faces and names of all those we have known who lived your light, who carried it and passed it down right through the ages to this moment, now, as we light the final candle, the candle of Christ. For all those whose lives have been beacons in our darkness, we covenant with you, God, and with each other, to be the same for them and others. May your light of Christ be born not simply to us, but in us – all – this night. Amen.

Light the White Christ Candle

Hymn

Away in a Manger

VU 69

A New Creed**VU 918****Scripture Reading Isaiah 9:2-7****Solo O Holy Night – by A. Adam
Paul Bustin, baritone****Hymn Infant Holy, Infant Lowly Verse 1 VU 58****Children's Time****Hymn Infant Holy, Infant Lowly Verse 2 VU 58****Scripture Reading Luke 2:1-7****Hymn O Little Town of Bethlehem VU 64****Scripture Reading Luke 2:8-14****Hymn It Came Upon the Midnight Clear VU 44****Scripture Reading Luke 2:15-20**

Hymn Go Tell It on the Mountain**VU 43****Offering and Offertory In the Bleak Midwinter****Verse 4 VU 55**

All (sung): What can I give him, poor as I am?
 If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part,
 yet what I can I give him – give my heart.

Dedication of the Offering

All: O God of Hope, God of Peace, God of Joy, God of Love, we pray you bless these gifts, that they might become a blessing to this world you love so much. May those who receive them know that you are with them, in this holy season and in all their days to come. In the name of the Child of Bethlehem, Emmanuel the Light of the World, we pray. Amen.

Ministry of Music This Peaceful Night**– by D. Besig and N. Price****Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer****Invitation to Light Individual Candles**

Hymn**Silent Night****VU 67****Benediction**

One: The candles have been lit – light in the depth of night.

All: The carols have been sung – lifting hearts with angels heavenward.

One: The story has been told – live it, now, every day: this hope, this peace, this joy, this love, given to the world through Jesus, the Christ, God with us, Emmanuel. Amen.

Hymn**Silent Night****Verse 1 VU 67****Musical Postlude**

Today's Service and Bulletin is Dedicated in Loving Memory of...

† *Don & Annie Bustin & Lyle & Georgia Crane
by Creighton & Veneita Bustin*

† *Our father & grandfather Douglas Evans
by Tracy, Sherry, Angie, Bryan & families*

† *Lila and Allison Shillington & William Hickie
by Joan & John Hickie and families*



Loving God, Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every
greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

-- Robert Louis Stevenson

MERRY
CHRISTMAS