

## Welcome & Prelude

Call to Worship (from Isaiah 9:2-7, Luke 2:10–15 & “*The Risk of Birth, Christmas, 1973*” by Madeleine L’Engle)

One: *“This is no time for a child to born, with the earth betrayed by war and hate.”*

**All: Unto us is born this day in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.**

One: “That was no time for a child to be born, in a land in the crushing grip of Rome...Yet here did the Savior make his home.”

**All: “For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace.”**

One: “When is the time for love to be born? The inn is full on the planet earth...Yet Love still takes the risk of birth.”

**All: Then and now and always is the time for Love to born, to be risked, to be pondered.**

One: Let us go now to Bethlehem.

**All: And worship Christ the Lord!**

Carol                      O Come, All You Faithful                      #135

## Lighting the Advent Candles

One: Throughout Advent we have lit the candles of peace, hope, joy, and love.

*[Relight the four Advent Candles]*

One: Let us pray

**All: Through the weeks we have carried the light of peace for what is possible, the light of hope for more than we can see, the light of joy for life resilience and the light of love which casts away all shadows. The darkness does not overcome the**

**risk and presence of Your great love, O God. Amen**

Sung Response

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lowly exile here,  
until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

Celebration of Communion

Invitation & Communion Prayer

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Communion

**All: We give thanks, O God, for on this night you  
have fed your holy wanderers, seeking and searching  
for your glory come down, your love poured out, and  
your beloved community dwelling among us. Amen.**

Carol                      Go Tell It On The Mountain                      #154

*Blessing of the Children:*

*During the singing of the hymn, children are invited  
forward for a Christmas blessing from Rev. Wendy*

Scripture                      Luke 2:1-20

Sermon

Hymn                      O Little Town of Bethlehem                      #133

*[Lights will go out after the hymn]*

Lighting the Christ Candle

Lighting the Congregation's Candles

Prayer

One: May the light of Christ spread through our world  
as it has spread through our sanctuary this night. Let

us pray,

**All: Dear God, who comes to us in Jesus, on this night as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, let the power of Christ come into our hearts that we might find peace with you forever. Amen.**

Carol

Silent Night

#134

Blessing

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### **Thank you!**

For being with us on this Christmas Eve.

May our worship together bless you with holiday spirit  
and fill you with the fullness of God's love.

**Offering** may be left in the basket at the rear of the  
sanctuary. Thank you!

### **Candles**

Please use caution with lit candles.

Always tip the unlit candle to light.

Please hold the burning candles upright because the  
wax is difficult to remove from the carpet. Thank you!

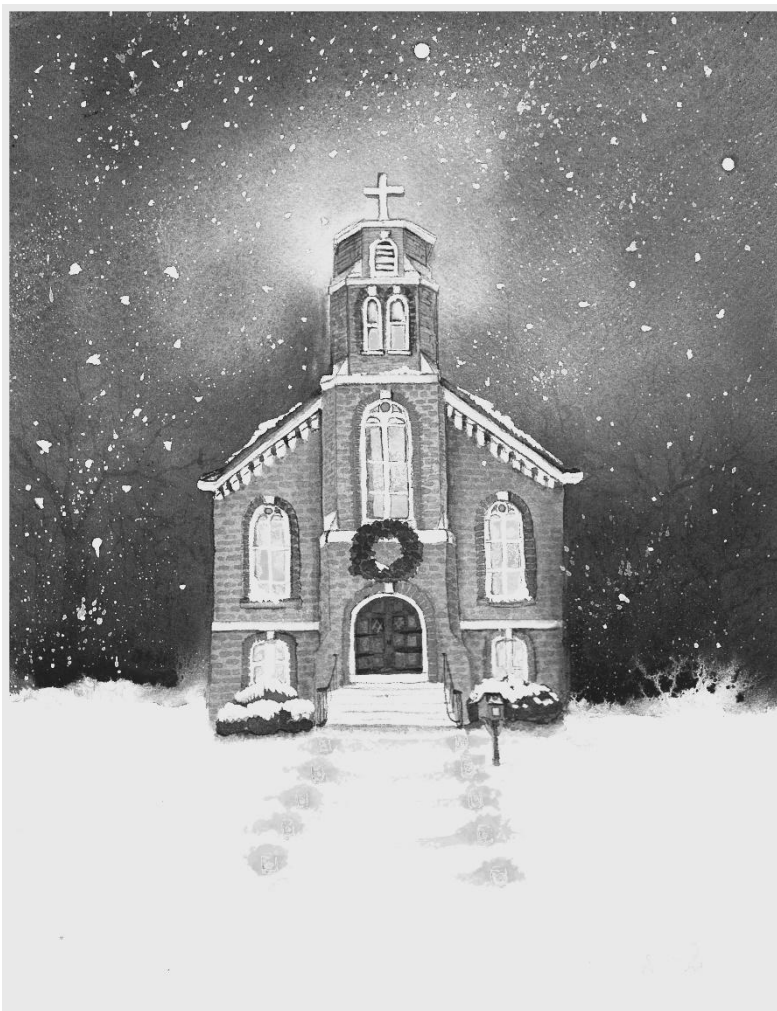
### **Merry Christmas!**

Reminder: No worship here on Sunday.

You can check out our Facebook page for a brief  
meditation moment.

**Welcome to the**  
**Monroeville United Church of Christ**

*Changing Lives to Change the World*



**Christmas Eve 2025**