

## **Luke 2:1-20 (NIV)** **The Birth of Jesus**

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.



**United Methodist Church**  
**340 N Newell Avenue**  
**Minden, NE 68959**

**December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
**7:00 PM**

# Christmas Eve Service

Lighting of the Advent/Christmas Candles		Kring Family
Welcome		
*Call to Worship		
*Opening Prayer		
*Carols	“It Came upon the Midnight Clear” “O Little town of Bethlehem”	UMH #218 UMH #230
Children’s Sermon		Ginger Frizane
Scripture Reading	Luke 2:1-20	Kring
Christmas Message	“O Holy Night”	Pastor Peter Choi
Special Music		
Vocal Duet	“What Child Is This”	
	Kara Suchsland & Addison Klabunde	
Bell Choir	“Away in a Manger” & “Silent Night”	Sunday School
Trombone Solo	“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”	
	Dan Frizane	
Piano Solo	“O Holy Night”	Lena Choi
Hymn	“O Come, All Ye Faithful”	UMH #234
Offering Prayer		

## Service of the Candles

Our lights have been dimmed to symbolize the darkness of the world before the birth of Christ. The burning candle represents the God whose light shines, even in darkness. We are to spread the light which was sent to enlighten the world. It was done by the first apostles, then by their converts. Today this is our task. I light my candle from the central candle, the Christ candle.

As the light is passed to you, breathe a prayer that the candle you hold may Truly symbolize your commitment to carry Christ with you out into the world.

\*Carol "Silent Night" UMH #239  
(As "Silent Night" is being played, the candle lighters will light the candle of the first worshipper in each pew. Light will then be passed from worshipper to worshipper. Remember that the lit candle always remains upright, and the unlit candle is tipped to be lit.)

## Benediction

## Extinguishing the Candles

(Now as the lights of the church return, please extinguish your candle. The candles symbolize the lighting of our own lives. The return of the larger lights prophesies the lighting of the world. Please place your candle in a box at the back.)

