

### Offering Prayer

Dear God, we cannot thank you enough for the gift of your Son. Through your grace, you have given us everything, including our very lives. On this night, we celebrate the miracle of Christmas! But when the candles are blown out, when the ringing of the bells has ceased when the angels and shepherds have gone home, may we continue to shine your light into the world through the giving of these offerings. And so we offer you yet another gift: our partnership to build your reign here on earth.  
Amen.

### Holy Communion

Special Music "The First Noel" by Lena Choi

### Lighting of our Christmas Candle

L: Arise, shine, dear people, for our Light has come!

**P: Christ is the World's true Light, on our paths and in our lives.**

L: Receive the light and let its warmth and glow be in your hearts this night.

**P: The glory of the Lord shines around us on this night.**

### Hymn

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

UMH #239

### Benediction

May the light that began at creation, continued through the witness of the prophets, and has come to fullness at the Birth of Jesus Christ, be in your hearts and minds this evening.  
As you go from this place may your spirits be filled with joy and hope; for God's precious Light has been given for you. Go in Peace and know that God's peace always goes with you.  
AMEN.

### 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.)



*Christmas Eve*

S E R V I C E

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021

7:00 PM

United Methodist Church

340 N Newell Avenue

Minden, NE 68959

(308) 832-1995

[www.facebook.com/MindenUMC](http://www.facebook.com/MindenUMC)

[www.mindenumc.org](http://www.mindenumc.org)

## Lighting of the Advent/Christmas Candles—Dornhoff Family

### Welcome

#### Call to Worship

L: He's coming! He's coming! The Savior of the World is coming!

**P: Let us prepare our hearts to greet him!**

L: He comes to each one of us, healing and restoring our lives!

**P: Praise be to God for God's mighty gift to us.**

L: O Come, Prince of Peace, bring your light to us!

**P: We are ready to receive you in our lives! AMEN.**

#### Opening Prayer

Glorious God, who presents us with the most precious of gifts, we praise you for all your blessings in our lives. Tonight we have come to this place, in the midst of a busy time. We might not even have everything ready at home, yet we have come, because we ourselves need to be ready. Work in our hearts this night, preparing us for your presence. Work in our lives that we may reach out to others in comfort and compassion; work in our world that the darkness that has encompassed it may be dispelled by the brightness of your love and your Gift. In faith and expectation, we pray. AMEN.

#### Opening Hymn

“Away in A Manger”

UMH #217

#### Children's Sermon

Ginger Frizane

#### Special Music

“Gentle, Gentle Jesus”

&

“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

sung by Chloe Choi

#### Scripture Reading

Luke 2:8-20 (NIV)

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.

#### Christmas Message

“The Manger”

Pastor Peter Choi

#### Hymn

“What Child Is This”

UMH #219