



A
Christmas
Service

presented by:
**The Episcopal Office
of The Iowa Annual Conference
of The United Methodist Church**



This worship service has been planned for your inspiration and encouragement while providing a moment of rest for our local church leaders.

Bold italic print indicates where you are invited to respond.

Welcome Rev. Ron Carlson

Prelude "Light of the Stable" Dan and Karla
Spirit Lake United Methodist Church

Call to Worship

We give thanks to you God,
for the body of a tiny baby,
life and breath in a tiny ribcage.
Immanuel, God with us,
a promise of salvation.

Rev. Melissa Drake

We give thanks for loving parents,
for the light of a star,
for the radiance of angels,
for the running feet of shepherds,
for all the joy of that first Christmas.

Rev. Dr. Moody Colorado

We thank you for today,
that you have given our bodies life
and breath this Christmas,
that we are here, now,
gathered across the Conference,
joined in one accord in prayer to you.

Rev. Dr. Heecheon Jeon

All: ***Let the light of Jesus shine in our hearts as we come together for worship.
Amen.***

Prayers of Confession and Pardon Joni Mardesen

Words of Assurance Maggie Biggs

In the name of the babe of Bethlehem,
whose birth we celebrate,
remember the Lord has comforted and redeemed us!
Recall the words of the angels:
Good news...Great joy...All people...
In Christ we receive the salvation of our God.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: ***Glory to God in the highest!***

Children's Time "Christmas Movies" Bryan Johnson

Scripture Readings Isaiah 9:6-7 Rev. Dr. Jaye Johnson
Luke 2:8-20 Rev. Bill Poland

Meditation "You Get a Baby" Rev. Paul Smith
Newton First United Methodist Church

Closing Litany Bishop Laurie Haller
Rev. Doug Cue

Leader: If you choose,
you can be instruments of hope in the world.

All: ***We so choose,
so we go to spread the hope and promise of a coming child.***

Leader: If you choose,
you can counter the voices of anxiety and despair in the world.

All: ***We so choose,
so we sing songs of hope because the world can be changed.***

Leader: If you choose,
you can fight against the fear that freezes the heart of many.

All: ***We so choose,
so we will tell of the love that conquers fear, the love of a child in a manger.***

Leader: The choice is ours to make,
how we live into the possibilities of Christmas.

All: ***The beauty is that we do not live out the choice by our own strength.***

Leader: Go with God,
who feeds our hopes and quiets our fears

All: ***Always and everywhere. Amen.***

Benediction Rev. Dr. Lanette Plambeck

Postlude "Stars and Angels" Dan and Karla
Spirit Lake United Methodist Church