

# *SPRING HILL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST*

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
*Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*  
*Lessons and Carols*  
*December 24, 2019*

## *Welcome and Announcements*

### ***WE SETTLE INTO STILLNESS***

#### *Prelude*

Acolyte ~ Riley Bradley

#### *Call to Worship*

One: Welcome tonight to a celebration like no other.

**All: This is the night of the Holy Birth.**

One: Let the love of Jesus be born in your hearts.

**All: Open our hearts to receive this blessed gift, Loving God.**

One: Rejoice good friends, the Good News is here!

**All: Christ our Savior is born! Halleluiaah!**

#### *\*Gathering Hymn #182*

*“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*  
(Advent Booklet)

#### *\*WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD’S PRESENCE (UNISON)*

**O Holy God, we hear the story of shepherds and magi, of maiden and carpenter, of prophets and angels, and we, too, come to Bethlehem for a blessing. You are born in our hearts because You have chosen the weakness of our bodies for Your birth. We are filled with love because You have taken upon Yourself our humanity. We are filled with hope because You have offered us Your Spirit, Your life, and Your light. We are filled with faith because all that is meek, lowly, and humble in us becomes holy this night. We have come to this holy time and we say together, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and goodwill to all.” Amen.**

#### *SPECIAL MUSIC*

*“O Holy Night”*  
Soloist—Chuck Corbett

arr. C. Courtney

#### ***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE***

One: Every year we light our candles.

**All: We watch the flames flicker with wonder.**

One: God’s light is here.

**All: This light is life for all people.**

One: Tonight we light the Christ candle and the darkness will never overcome it.

**All: The Word is with us. Thanks be to God.**

*Hymn #185*                      “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”                      (*Advent Booklet*)

*THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO MARY*      *Luke 1: 26-38*

*Hymn #203*                      “Away in a Manger”                      (*Advent Booklet*)

*JOSEPH’S VISIT*      *Matthew 1: 18-24*

*Hymn #229*                      “The First Noel”                      (*Advent Booklet*)

*THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE PEOPLE*      *Luke 2: 8-20*

*Hymn #188*                      “Angels We Have Heard on High”                      (*Advent Booklet*)

*THE RESPONSE OF THE WISE MEN*      *Matthew 2: 1-11*

*Hymn #180*                      “O Little Town of Bethlehem”                      (*Advent Booklet*)

*THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING*

*OFFERTORY (please remain seated)*

*Prayer of Dedication(Unison)*

**We give you thanks, Holy One, for the world of wonder you have made; forest and field, sea and sky, and for the gift of race that you have given a little child, lying in a manger. Receive these gifts of tenderness and love, of gratitude and praise, and use them for your glory; in the name of Jesus the Christ, the child of Bethlehem, we pray. Amen.**

*A CHRISTMAS STORY FOR ALL AGES –*

*Rev. Robin DeAngelis*

*HYMN #179*                      “Joy to the World”                      (*Advent Booklet*)

## ***THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION***

***The Call and Invitation to Communion***

***Communion Prayer***

***Words of Remembrance***

***The Blessing of the Children***

***Sharing of the Bread***

***Sharing of the Cup***

***\*The Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)***

**Infinite, intimate God, in this meal we have celebrated your presence with us. May we grow in the divine life of Christ who humbly shared our human life. Fill us with joy and send us out to share this good news with others. We ask this through Jesus Christ Emmanuel. Amen.**

***FESTIVAL OF LIGHT***

***(Please remain seated)***

***A LIGHT COMES TO US***      *Isaiah 9: 2-7*

***CANDLE LIGHTING***

*As Christ comes bringing the light of God's love, we light our individual candles to signify our individual and collective commitment to live as Christ's faithful in the world.*

*As we turn on the light of our candles we will join in singing.*

*Now as we sing "Silent Night" the lights will be dimmed.*

*As the lights are dimmed let us hold up our candles... One candle is but a flicker, but together, we create the bright flame of Christ's light in the world! May we be witnesses of the light Christ brings. Amen.*

***\*HYMN #186***

***"Silent Night"***

***(Advent Booklet)***

*As you gently extinguish your candle, carry the light of Jesus' love with you.*

*(please exit the sanctuary quietly and return all candles to the foil-lined boxes at the back of the sanctuary)*

***4244 MARINER BOULEVARD  
SPRING HILL, FL 34609  
(352) 683-4870 • WWW.SHUCC.ORG  
E-MAIL: SHUCCOFFICE@GMAIL.COM***