

Welcome to  
**MOUNT GRETNA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

*A Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*  
December 24, 2025 ~ 7:00 p.m.

**GATHERING AND PRAISE**

**RECITAL**

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

*beginning at 6:30 p.m.*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: The impossible is about to happen in a stable. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**People:** Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them has the light shone!

Leader: This is the evening when creation stood still and held its breath, for God was doing the most unbelievable, unthinkable thing.

**People:** This is the evening when God embraced humanity from the inside, as one of us, from birth to death.

Leader: The reality is upon us—this baby changes everything!

**People:** May God speak to us through Scripture and song as we come and worship Jesus Christ, the newborn King!

**\*GATHERING HYMN**    “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

No. 234

**\*INVOCATION** ~ O God our Father, you have brought us again to the glad season when we celebrate the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that his Spirit may be born anew in our hearts this night and that we joyfully welcome him to reign over us. Open our ears that we may hear again the angelic chorus of old. Open our lips that we, too, may sing with uplifted hearts. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill toward all; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

The Reader(s) Light All of the Candles

**WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Isaiah 11:1-4a

**HYMN**    “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

No. 196

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**GOSPEL READING**

Luke 2:1-20

**CHRISTMAS MEDITATION**

Welcoming Christmas in Narnia & in Us

**THANKSGIVING**

**\*HYMN**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

No. 240

**EVENING PRAYERS**, *concluding with unison Lord's Prayer (trespasses)*  
**PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS TO THE CHRIST CHILD**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

Tune: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow*

*Praise God, all Spirit messengers below.*

*Praise God, the source of all our gifts!*

*Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!*

*Rejoice! Rejoice!*

*Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*God of hope, peace, joy, love, and possibility,  
we offer these gifts so that they may be transformed into your good news  
for the sake of the world. Amen.*

**WE GO FORTH**

**THE CELEBRATION**

**Candlelight Service:** The ushers will bring the Light to each worshiper. The person on the aisle is asked to tip his/her unlit candle into the flame of the lighted candle and share that light with others in the row. Please, never tip a burning candle! During the fourth verse, lift your candles high!

**\*SONG OF AWE**

“Silent Night”

*(back of bulletin)*

**\*PRAYER OF COMMITMENT:** Loving God, we thank you for sending Jesus into our world. We praise you for revealing to us your message of love, hope, and reconciliation. We stand in awe of your Word made flesh, which came to dwell among us, full of grace and truth. Speak to us in this moment of beauty and wonder. Speak through us as you send us into the world. Let our memories of the candlelight inspire and encourage us to let your Light shine through us, every day and in every place. All this we pray in the name of Jesus the Christ, who is the Light of the World. Amen!

**\*CAROL**

“Joy to the World”

No. 246

**\*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

Pastor: In all the places we go, in all the times we share, with all the people we encounter, remember this: God is with you!

**People: GOD IS WITH US! Alleluia! Amen!**

Pastor: Go forth now, with the Light of Christ before you, to know Christ and make him known, to help people become—and grow as followers of Christ, to relieve suffering, in our community and beyond, through our ministries! Amen.

**People: Amen!**

**POSTLUDE**

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***OUR THANKS*** to all who have sponsored the poinsettias that adorn our sanctuary.

**Silent Night**

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;  
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at the birth.

Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing. Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

*\*Please stand, if able.*