



University Mennonite Church

December 24, 2023, 5 p.m.



Christmas Eve Service
of readings, carols, and candle lighting



Christmas Eve

Prelude – Jesse Weidner, Ross Hardison, and Becky Kephart

Greeting and opening prayer – Kate Heinzl

Lighting of advent candles

Perkons Woods, Stehouwer, and Schonberg families

Carol – *O Little Town of Bethlehem* VT #245 (verses 1,2,3)

Scripture lesson – Isaiah 9:2; 6-7

Readers: Timothy and Daniel Schonberg

Carol – *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* VT #216

Scripture lesson – Isaiah 11:1–3a; 4a; 6–9

Readers: Dale and Becky Kephart

Special music – *What Child Is This*, Sally and Mark Minnich

Children's time – *Old Befana* - Kate Heinzl

Scripture lesson – Luke 2:1-7

Reader: Laura Litwiller

Carol – *Angels We Have Heard on High* VT #249

(verses 1,2,3)

Scripture lesson – Luke 2:8-19

Reader: Micah Schonberg

Carol – *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* VT #247

Closing prayer and blessing – Kate Heinzl

Carol – *Silent Night, Holy Night* VT #244

Blessed Christmas to you all!

Carols led by: Ken Litwiller

Accompanists: Becky Kephart, Krista Weidner,
Jesse Weidner

The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled, When the star in the sky is gone, When the kings and princes are home, When the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,

To heal the broken,

To feed the hungry,

To release the prisoner,

To rebuild the nations,

To bring peace among others,

To make music in the heart.

-Howard Thurman