



Into this world, this demented inn
in which there is absolutely no room for
him at all,
Christ comes uninvited.

But because he cannot be at home in it,
because he is out of place in it,
and yet he must be in it,
His place is with the others for whom
there is no room.

With those for whom there is no room,
Christ is present in this world.

- Thomas Merton

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 brothers,
To make music in the heart.

- Howard Thurman



ST. ANDREW BY-THE-SEA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Christmas Eve, December 24, 2023

4:30 and 7:00 pm

The liturgical color is white, symbolizing the hope, love, peace, and joy
of the Christ-child

GATHERING FOR PRAISE

PRELUDE

Angels We Have Heard on High

arr. De Cou

RINGING OF THE TRINITY CHIMES

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Frank Lybrand

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory.**

Let us dance with delight in the Lord

and let our hearts be filled with rejoicing,

for eternal salvation has appeared on the earth. Alleluia!

***CAROL OF PRAISE - UMH #234**

ADESTE FIDELES

O Come, All Ye Faithful (verses 1-3, 5)

***A READING FROM THE PROPHET**

Isaiah 9:2-7 (NRSV)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE CHRISTMAS CANDLES

The Barry & Gresham Family, 4:30

The Lybrand Family, 7:00

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light!

We wait for you no longer, Lord Jesus, you have come!

God has increased our joy, for a child has been given to us,
a Son has been born to us!

We wait for you no longer, Lord Jesus, you have come!

His name is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.

His name is Lord Jesus Christ, and He has come!

We light the Christ candle today, along with all the Christmas candles of
Hope, Love, Peace, and Joy, to knock holes in the darkness.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot put it out!

Amen!

ADVENT CANDLE SONG - TFWS #2090

Advent Candle Song { verse 5 }

HEARING GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-20 (NRSV)

Rev. Jonathan Tompkins

SERMON

HOPE is on the Way! Series

'HOPE is HERE!'

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

***CAROL OF RESPONSE - UMH #246**

ANTIOCH

Joy to the World

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Merciful God, we confess that often we find darkness more
comfortable than light.

**We confess that Christmas has become more to us than the birthday
of the Christ, partly because we do not want a Christ-Child in our lives or
in our world.**

**We confess that we forget our true Hope, our true Love, our true Peace,
our true Joy.**

Forgive us, break us, bend us, remake us.

**Be born again into our world, be born again into our hearts and lives,
and help us to carry Christ into the world so that all will know
his light and life.**

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners, proving God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING - UMH #9

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Gluten free and individual elements available upon request

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

*Please leave your offering as you come to receive Communion, or give through our
E-giving portal on our website. 100% will go to help others locally through our
Annual Community Thanksgiving meal and globally through Mission Guatemala.*

COMMUNION ANTHEM

4:30 - Hallelujah Christmas

Rebecca Tompkins with the Seaside Chancel Choir

7:00 - Still, Still, Still

Seaside Bell Choir

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

RECEIVING AND SHARING THE LIGHT

Please say, 'The light of Christ' as you share your light with your neighbor

***CAROL OF SENDING - UMH #239**

STILLE NACHT

Silent Night (v1-3)

***SENDING FORTH**

Awaken Us, God (Joy)

The light of Creation now brightens the sky

'A child has been born!' blessed angels now cry

Awaken us, God, to the joy of our birth

That we may rejoice in your realm here on earth

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***POSTLUDE**

Voluntary on Two Carols

arr. D. Kidwell

**Please stand as you are able*