

# <u>Mission Statement:</u> Tipton First United Methodist Church

"To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 10:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

607 Lynn St. - Tipton, IA 52772; 563-886-2331 office@tiptonumc.org or pastor@tiptonumc.org Website: www.tiptonumc.org

Paul E. Frederiksen - Pastor Jenn Comstock - Admin. Ministries Coordinator Sylvia Gould - Accompanist Alice Ann Gallagher - Chancel Choir Director Greg Brown - Director of Xn Chaos Don Griffith - Custodian Denise Cartwright - Choir Kids Director Dee Wallace - Accompanist

# CHRISTMAS EVE 2014

10:00 p.m.

Carols, Communion and Candlelight

December 24

(The (\*) invites persons to rise as able for this act of worship.

**PRELUDE** 

**CALL TO WORSHIP** 

various passages

\* SONG

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

No. 220

\* PRAYER OF WORSHIP (unison)

Gracious God, with joy and thanksgiving we gather as your people.

We have come to hear again the timeless story of Christ's birth.

In the excitement of this night, quiet our hearts

that we may know the peace and fullness of this holy time.

Shine, O Light, in the darkness of our world.

Sing, O angels, in the stillness of our hearts,

"Glory to God in the highest,

and on earth peace among those God favors."

This we pray in the name of the Child of Bethlehem. Amen.

SINGING "He Is Born" No. 228

LIGHTING of the ADVENT and CHRIST CANDLES

THE Story Luke 2:1-7

Reader: Come, Lord Jesus.

ALL: Come, Lord Jesus, come into our world; come into MY life!

SONG "What Child Is This" No. 219

THE NEWS SPREADS Luke 2:8 – 14

& Luke 2:15 – 20

SONG "Joy to the World" (vss. 1 & 2) No. 246

SCRIPTURE Luke 1:39 & 40

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

PONDERING THE EVENT "Pulling for Home"

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION and PARDON

Merciful God.

or in our world.

we confess that often we find darkness more comfortable than light. We confess that we find your good news frightening and unsettling, especially when we consider its demands as well as its promises. 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

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

Give us the courage to lay ourselves open to the wonder and healing of your coming.

Be born again into our world; be born again into our hearts and lives. (silent confessions)

Leader: The true light that enlightens all has come into the world.

That light shines on in the darkness, and the darkness has never been able to put it out. This is the good news: God has heard our confession. God has forgiven our sin.

People: Thanks be to God!

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GIVING – Our Offerings of Love

SING (as offering is received) "There's A Song..." (vss. 1,2,4) No. 249

## HOLY COMMUNION - The Christ Still Among Us!

Take the Bread and Cup

Give Thanks

The Lord's Prayer

Break the Bread, Prepare the Cup

Receive. Grace Upon Grace

(Bring your candle and program with you when you come for communion.)

#### \* CANDLELIGHTING

(Keep the <u>lit</u> candle upright; dip the <u>unlit!</u>)

The ushers will take the flame to the persons sitting along the center aisle. Another usher will take the flame to the balcony center aisle. Pass the flame one to another to the ends of the row. Persons in the balcony are invited to move toward the front edge after your candle is lit... if you're ok with that.

Jesus said, "The light will be with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, lest the darkness overtake you. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become children of light."

\*SONG "Silent Night" ( + = raise candle)

- 1. Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright;
  - Round you virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,

No. 239

- → Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2. 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!
- 3. Silent night, holy night, Son of God, loves pure light;
  - Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
  - → Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.
- 4. 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!

#### \* THE SENDING FORTH

## \* POSTLUDE

(Please extinguish and hold your candle upright until the wax cools and hardens. As you leave there are containers in which to place your candle.)

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May it be pleasing to God that you are here for Christmas Eve worship! If you are visiting and looking for a church home, we extend an invitation to you to come again! If you are "home for the holidays," welcome home! We pray you and yours have safe travels and a time together that makes for good memories.

Greeters: Brian and Amber Boedeker Family, Kathy & Larry Houstman Keyboard: Sylvia Gould