

A Very Dakotas Christmas 2022
Light of the World
Order of Worship

*Notes: Using the NRSV UE translation for John scripture readings. Luke scripture is NIV.
Liturgy pieces from the Church of England*

Prelude

Marcia Klimes, First UMC, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

What Child Is This, setting by John Behnke

Un Flambeau Jeannette Isabella, setting by Christopher Uehlein

Welcome—*Rev. Kris Mutzenberger, Northeast District Superintendent*

Brothers and sisters in Christ, welcome to a Very Dakotas Christmas. Christ has brought us out of darkness: to live in his marvelous light. We come together in the presence of God to rejoice in the gift of Jesus - the light of the world, to hear and receive the story and message of the coming of Christ, and to offer to God our thanks and praise.

Lighting of the Advent and Christ Candle

Rev. John Anderson and family, Spirit of Faith Church, Candle 1—Candle of Joy: Today we remember Jesus and the story of his birth; Jesus is our King. We light the candle of joy.

Rev. Jeff Lathrop and family, First UMC, Pierre, South Dakota Candle 2—Candle of Love: Jesus Christ is the light of the world; Jesus is our Way. We light the candle of love.

Rev. Annie Carlson, Washburn UMC, Washburn, North Dakota, Candle 3—Candle of Peace: With Jesus even dark places are light; Jesus is the Truth. We light the candle of peace.

Rev. Bryce Blank, First UMC, Watertown, South Dakota, and Rev. Thanael Certa-Werner, Cavalier UMC, Cavalier, North Dakota, Candle 4—Candle of

Hope: In Jesus we shall live forever: Jesus is our Life. We light the candle of hope.

Bishop Lanette Plambeck, Bishop Elect, Dakotas-Minnesota Area, Christ

Candle: In Jesus there is no darkness at all. We light the Christ candle, the sign of Christ's light in the World

Call to worship

Rev. Kris Mutzenberger, Northeast District Superintendent and Rev. Joel Winckler, Northwest District Superintendent

Join me in the call to worship:

The people who walked in darkness **have seen a great light.**

For to us a child is born **to us a Son is given.**

His name will be called Wonderful counsellor, mighty God,
the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Glory to God in the highest **and peace to his people on earth.**

O Little Town of Bethlehem, UM Hymnal #230, verses 1, 3, 4
First UMC Celebration Choir, Watertown, South Dakota

Prayer – Rev. Joel Winckler, Northwest District Superintendent

Gracious God, we give you thanks and praise for Jesus Christ our Lord: for he was the Word before all creation. Through him all things come to be. His life is the light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness cannot overpower.

Jesus, The Word was the true light coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own, and they did not accept him. But to all who accept him he gives power to become children of God. The Word was made flesh and lived among

us, and we have seen his glory, as of the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. Jesus, light of the world, we worship and adore you. Amen.

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20

Campus Ministries, Dakota Wesleyan University

Barak Minor, Andrea Hult, Anna Murzenberger, Autumn Kurtz

He is Born, UM Hymnal #228

Praise Band, Grace UMC, Piedmont, South Dakota

Children's story All Is Bright: When God Came Down One Silent Night by Clay Anderson, illustrated by Natalie Merheb

Narration by Rev. Dayne Zachrison, Dakotas Conference Elder, Fargo, North Dakota

Song: UMH 239 Silent Night

Amy Morrison, soloist; Julie Ostroot, piano, Asbury UMC, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Scripture: John 1:1-14— *Campus Ministries, Dakota Wesleyan University*

Miranda Hanson, Amber Feigert, Anna Mutzenberger, Audrey Koesters

Sermon: Jesus, Light of the World, Brings Hope

Bishop Deborah Kiesey, Interim Bishop, Dakotas UMC

Prayers of Intercession:

Rev. Dan Bader, Southwest District Superintendent, and Rev. Rebecca Trefz, Southeast District Superintendent and Executive Director of Ministries

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Father, your Son our Savior was born in human flesh. Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.

Holy God **hear our prayer.**

There was no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty.

Holy God **hear our prayer.**

Mary, in the pain of labor, brought your Son to birth. Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress. Even

Holy God **hear our prayer.**

Your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world.

Holy God **hear our prayer.**

The angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.' Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in all the world.

Holy God **hear our prayer.**

Shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption.

Holy God **hear our prayer.**

Strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love.

Holy God **hear our prayer.**

Heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death in the hope of your coming kingdom.

Holy God **hear our prayer.**

Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.

Holy God **hear our prayer.**

Amen.

Song: Even So Come

By Chris Tomlin | Jason Ingram | Jess Cates

Legacy UMC Worship Band led by Becca Hafner, Bismarck, North Dakota

Blessing – *Rev. Rebecca Trefz, Southeast District Superintendent and Executive Director of Ministries*

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ-child
be yours this Christmas. Amen.

Postlude *Marcia Klimes, First UMC, Sioux Falls, South Dakota*

For Unto Us a Child Is Born, setting by Lani Smith