

**CHEVIOT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
DECEMBER 24, 2011 11:00 P.M.**

*PLEASE STAND AS ABLE
(All Christmas Carols are in the Red Hymnal)

MOMENTS FOR QUIET MEDITATION

She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." Matthew 1:21 (NASB)

**MUSIC OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON
WELCOME**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God loves you!

People: Praise the Lord!

Leader: The Word became flesh for us.

People: Praise the Lord!

Leader: Christ died for us.

People: Praise the Lord!

Leader: Christ was raised for us.

People: Praise the Lord!

Leader: God has given us the very best gift we can ever receive. God has affirmed His love for us while we were yet sinners. God has promised that all who believe in Jesus Christ have everlasting life. On this Christmas Eve, let us celebrate the reality of the birth, life, and works of Christ who came for our eternal salvation. Amen!

People: Amen and praise the Lord!

CHRISTMAS CAROL

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" #234 (verses 1-3-6)

OPENING PRAYER (In Unison)

Thank You, heavenly Father, that You loved the world so much that You gave so much! You gave Your only-begotten Son! And, true to form, we have forgotten how incredibly awesome that expression of Your love really is. Tonight, as we symbolically enter the door of the stable, help us see You standing at the door of our hearts – knocking, waiting, wanting to come in and fellowship

with us. We don't want to leave You there, Lord Jesus. We long to know You and share Your love with others. We figuratively bow, in the deepest part of our being, and open ourselves to You in worship and praise. Amen.

THE BIRTH OF JESUS Luke 2:1-7

MINISTRY OF MUSIC
"Sweet Little Jesus Boy" arr. Hamilton
Chancel Choir

ANGELS PRAISE GOD Luke 2:8-14

CHRISTMAS CAROL
"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" #240

SHEPHERDS WORSHIP JESUS Luke 2:15-20

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Breath Of Heaven"
Solo: Jennifer Araya

THE SAVIOR IS BORN Matthew 1:18-25

SERIES: "THE ULTIMATE GIFT"
(Christmas Carols – The Message in the Music)

MESSAGE "The Gift That Keeps on Giving!"
Senior Pastor, Craig Jones

MINISTRY OF MUSIC "O Holy Night" arr: Jay Rouse
Chancel Choir

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

We light the Christ Candle on this night of nights, signifying the birth of the Savior of the world!

OUR CALL TO SHARE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Pastor: *Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world. If you follow Me, you won't be stumbling through the darkness, because you will have the Light that leads to life." Tonight we celebrate the coming of Jesus, the Light of the world. Our candles bear witness to that Light, and brighten this time of celebration.*

People: In Jesus was life, and His life was the light of all. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Pastor: *The "light" of the Lord Jesus continues to shine, as it glows in our lives through our Christian love and service.*

People: "So the Word became human and lived here on earth among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen His glory, the glory of the only Son of the Father.

(The pastor will light his candle from the Christ candle and share his light with the ushers who will then pass the light to you. Please keep your candle upright. The receiving candle should be tilted.)

(see back of bulletin)