

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service**  
**December 24, 2011 11:00 pm**

**WELCOME** Reverend Edd Spencer

**PRELUDE** "Coventry Carol" David Brasher

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Reverend Edd Spencer  
**AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR CHRISTMAS**

*I believe that Christmas is not just a time for parties and ornaments;  
it is a time for remembering Christ and the incarnation of God's love in human flesh.*

*I believe there are gifts more important than the ones under the Christmas tree,  
such as the things we teach our children and the way we share ourselves with friends.*

*I believe in the angels' message that we should not be afraid –  
that the child of Bethlehem is able to overcome all fears.*

*I believe in the lights of Christmas,  
for they remind me of Him who is the light of the world.*

*I believe in giving gifts at Christmas, for it is in keeping with the greatest gift the world  
has ever known – The Christ child, son of the living God.*

*Because I believe in these things,  
I believe in the One whose birth we celebrate tonight.*

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE** Reverends Edd & Mary Pat Spencer

**\* HYMN OF PRAISE** "Joy to the World" Reverend Jan Watts

*Joy, to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare Him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*

*Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness,  
and wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,  
and wonders, wonders of His love.*

**A CHRISTMAS SOLO** "O Holy Night" Reverend Jan Watts

**THE CHRISTMAS STORY** "In Word and Song"

*Luke 2: 1-5  
O Little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.  
Yet in the dark streets shineth, the everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

Reverend Edd Spencer

*Luke 2: 6-7  
Away in a manger, no crib for a bed  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The Stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.*

Reverend Mary Pat Spencer

*Luke 2: 8-14  
The first Noel, the angel did say,  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel! Noel! Noel! Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel!*

Reverend Edd Spencer

*Luke 2: 15-20  
Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains.  
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

Reverend Mary Pat Spencer

*Matthew 2: 1-2, 7-11  
We three kings of Orient are bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.  
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

Reverend Edd Spencer

**A CHRISTMAS PRAYER** Reverend Edd Spencer

**A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE** "A Christmas Eve Story" Reverend Mary Pat Spencer

**INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE**  
"O Come, All Ye Faithful" Reverend Jan Watts

*O Come, All ye faithful, joyful, and triumphant, O Come ye, O Come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him born the King of angels;*

*O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.*

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;*

*O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.*

**A CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

**COMING TO THE LORD'S TABLE**      *Elders: Libby Carpenter & Hugh Henderson*  
*Deacons: Bob & Alyssa*

*Lamb*

*The Deacons will assist you to the Elders and the Ministers to receive Holy Communion.*

*After you receive Communion, please take one of the candles and return to your pew.*

**SHARING THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD**

**CAROL OF PEACE**      *"Silent Night, Holy Night"*      *Reverend Jan Watts*

*Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright*  
*Round yon virgin mother and child, holy infant so tender and mild,*  
*Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight*  
*Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly host sing alleluia*  
*Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!*

*Silent night, holy night, son of God love's pure light*  
*Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,*  
*Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth! Jesus, Lord at Thy birth!*

**THE CLOSING PRAYER**      *Reverend Edd Spencer*

*It is time to go forth and share the Good News. A child has been born! His name is*  
*Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace.*

*He has established His kingdom, and He longs to reign in our lives. This news is*  
*Good News. Brothers and sisters, we are called to proclaim the real meaning of Christmas*  
*– a child had been born! Thanks be to God. Amen*

*Please leave in silence and place your candle in the metal container in the narthex.*

***Worship tomorrow morning at 9:00 am. There is no Sunday School.***