

OFFERING

This year we will receive our special Christmas Eve offering. Each year we give our Christmas Eve offering to Epworth Children's Home. Since 1896, Epworth Children's Home has been a place for children to grow, learn and be loved. Within Epworth are numerous statewide programs to serve children between the ages of 0 – 21yrs. These children come from broken family systems and Epworth's goal is to nurture and love them by providing education, counseling, medical care and spiritual enrichment. We are giving our Christmas Eve offering to others because we understand that Jesus has come to bring light into our darkness, hope to our moments of despair and salvation and deliverance to all who are burdened, bound and oppressed.

\*DOXOLOGY

**THE EUCHARISTIC FEAST**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. Emily Sutton

CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

See Insert Below

\*PEACE *(All exchange words and signs of God's peace.)*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**SENDING FORTH**

\*NEW TESTAMENT LESSON John 1:1-14

LIGHTING OF CANDLES

\*HYMN *Silent Night, Holy Night* UMH# 239

\*HYMN *Joy to the World* UMH# 246

\*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

\*POSTLUDE

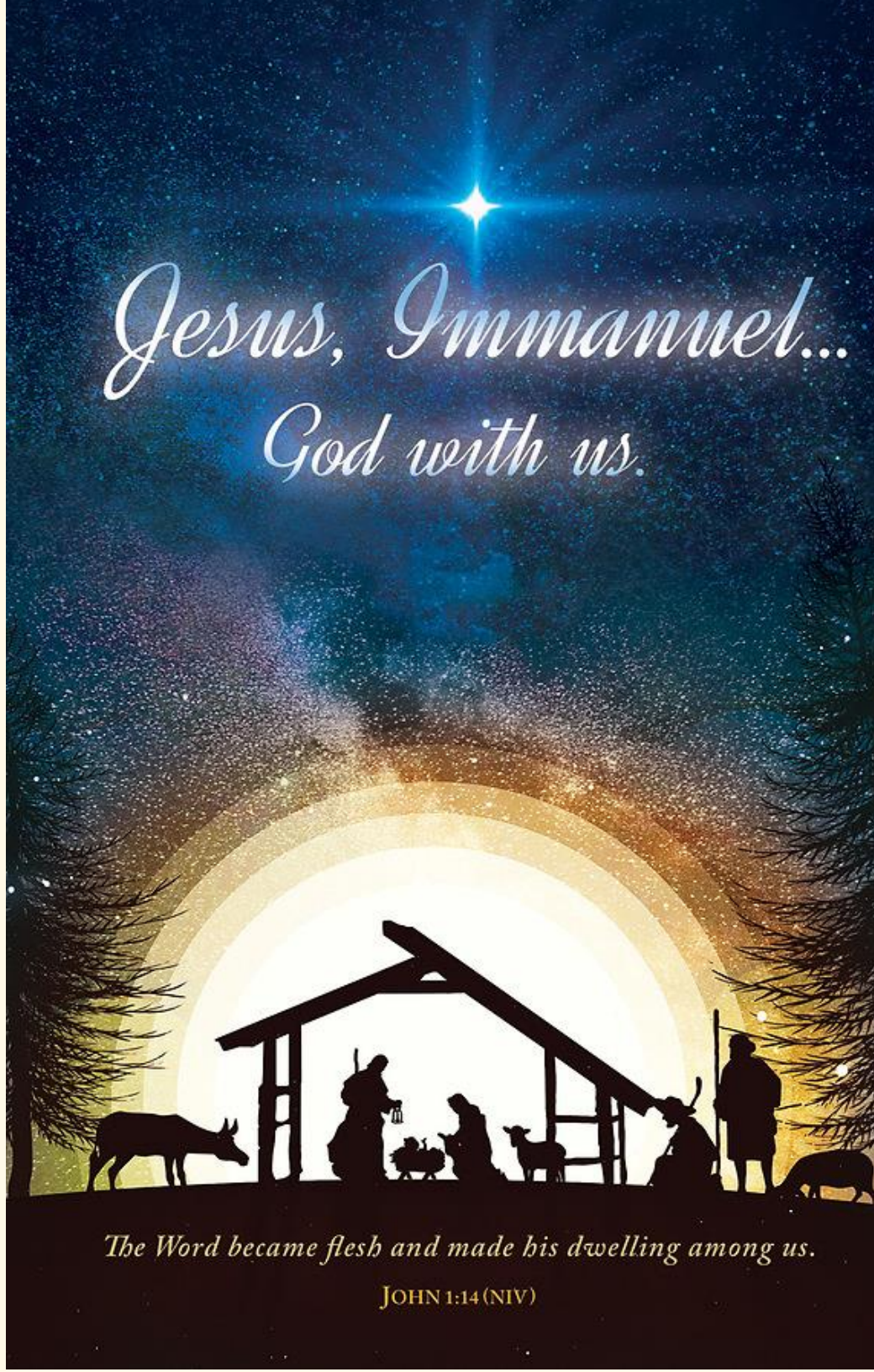
\* As you are able, please stand for these parts of the liturgy.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Welcome to worship at Bethel United Methodist Church!** We are delighted that you have chosen to worship with us this Christmas Eve. We invite you to worship with us again on Sunday at 11 a.m.

Scan QR code to give electronically.



*Jesus, Immanuel...  
God with us.*

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.*

JOHN 1:14 (NIV)





## HOLY COMMUNION

### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Christ our Lord invites to His table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin, and seek to live in peace with one another.  
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

### CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us we pray. Free us for joyful obedience through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*(All are invited to pray in silence)*

Here the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves 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

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets. In the fullness of time you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior, and at his birth the angels sang: "glory to you in the highest and peace to your people on earth." And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem and there found no room, so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem and was despised and rejected. As in the poverty of a stable Jesus was born, so by the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

As your Word became flesh, born of woman, on that night long ago, so, on the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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