

December 24, 2020

6:30 PM

Christmas Eve
We Believe, Even Now



Scottsdale United Methodist Church

...becoming a Christ-led community.

4140 North Miller Road, Scottsdale, Arizona 85251

(480) 946-5301 www.scottsdaleumc.org

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE:

GREETING

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

As we enter into worship, we enter a holy time and place. Let us focus our attention, our spirits and our selves on God to receive God's message of Good News.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE: Christ Candle

Find us on  Scottsdaleumc

OPENING

OPENING THEME MUSIC: "I Believe"

by Mark Miller

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Holy One,
we thank you for the glimpse of heaven on earth
In the faces and the light of those around us.
Even in the midst of fear,
of challenge, of struggle—
even when our view is obscured
by clouds of doubt,
You have ignited the flame of hope, love, joy, and peace within us.

**People: Let us glow with its brilliance
from the inside out. Amen.**

HYMN: Joy to the World

THE PEACE: Take a moment to waive at those around you. For those worshipping at home, offer up a prayer of peace for someone you wish could be with you.

WE PROCLAIM

We hear and receive God's word of hope proclaimed.

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 52:7-10

THE WITNESS OF MUSIC: O Holy Night

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:1-20

In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant.

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

#230

While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

“Away in a Manger”

#217

Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord’s angel stood before them, the Lord’s glory shone around them, and they were terrified. The angel said, “Don’t be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David’s city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, “Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors.”

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

#240

When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go right now to Bethlehem and see what’s happened. Let’s confirm what the Lord has revealed to us.” They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them.

“What Child is This?”

#219

Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

#234

MESSAGE

We Believe, Even Now

Rev. Ann Lyter

WE RESPOND

We respond to God’s message of hope and Gods’ call on our lives.

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT/OPPORTUNITIES TO “FILL THE NIGHT” WITH MUSIC AND LIGHT

SPECIAL MUSIC

A Song for a Silent Night

By Daniel Taborda

GO FORTH

We take the message of hope into the world

HYMN:

Silent Night

#239

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION SONG

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FILM FESTIVAL (Documentaries)

In addition to our worship, we will gather one last time for our a Film Festival focusing on music that brings hope even in the worst of times. We will be discussing “The Singing Revolution”. Available on Vimeo On Demand or on Amazon Prime Video for \$3.99. We will gather by Zoom on 12/30 at 7 pm to discuss the movie and share in fellowship. Please watch the movie before the planned discussion. To receive a copy of the Zoom link email Pastor Ann at pastorann@scottsdaleumc.org.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Bring your Advent collections to the church from 12/27-1/10/2021 and we will make sure everything gets to the Justa Center. Even if you don't collect everything, whatever you collect with be a help.

NEW WORSHIP SERIES FOR JANUARY: “God Is Holding Your Life”

“The works of God’s hands are faithful and just.” - Psalm 111 Life is a series of exclamations from “O No!” to “Help!” to “Oh Yeah!” We can swing between disappointment, helplessness, and gratitude on a daily basis. There are also seasons of our lives when we feel inundated with more of one than the others. As we enter the new year, we had hoped we would be past the “O No!” of the last several months. Instead we find ourselves with ongoing prayers for “Help!” The Book of Psalms knows all about this. Written over a span of time from exile and isolation to the rebuilding of the community, the poetry of the Psalms will accompany us in this series, reminding us that through it all, we can trust and even give our thankful “Oh Yeah!” because God is, indeed, holding our lives.



You can help shape this worship series by sharing your stories of how God has held you, where you have encountered God and felt God surround you, even in this dark time. It could be something recent, something that has grown over time, or a story from any time in your life journey with and to God. You can send your stories to pastorann@scottsdaleumc.org. Those who are willing may even have the chance to share their stories with the congregation by recording their story so it can be included in worship in your own words and voice.