

Christmas Eve - Family Service

Tuesday, December 24th, 2024 ~ 4:00 PM



**PORT
EDWARDS
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**

The Rev. Caleb McGregor, *Pastor*
Pat McGrath, *Usher* / Kathy McGrath, *Liturgist*
Marge & Randy Bauer, *Greeters*
Erin Taylor, *Piano Prelude*
50% of tonight's offering
will go to support students with
school meal debt in the Rapids Area.

THOUGHTS FOR THE EVENING

“Never better than at Christmas to be like a child,
when its mighty Founder was also a Child.” – *Charles Dickens*

“Christmas is our assurance that our loving God, Immanuel, is with us and is
continuously crashing through our darkness with light.” – *Jennifer Slattery*

“For us a Child has been born; to us a Son is given.

All the earth's governments will rest upon His shoulders.” – *Isaiah 9:6a*

L – Liturgist / P – People / M – Minister / † – words are on the TVs / * – stand in body or spirit

UMH – *The United Methodist Hymnal*

Please silence your mobile devices. Thank you!

(1) *The Body of Christ gathers to worship God!*

† WORDS OF WELCOME

(Matthew 2:2-3)

† P.E.U.M.C. – *A Home for All of God's People*

(2) *We listen to what God is saying to us!*

GATHERING PRAYER

The Introduction: *On a night long ago . . .*

† First Carol: *Away in a Manger* UMH 217

Our Journey to Bethlehem

† Second Carol: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* UMH 230
(verses 1 & 3)

Jesus Is Born

†* *Lighting the Christ Candle*

† Third Carol: *A Christmas Hallelujah* screen

The Shepherds

†* Fourth Carol: *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* UMH 229

The Angels

†* Fifth Carol: *Angels We Have Heard on High* UMH 238
(verses 1 & 2)

The First Christmas

†*Sixth Carol: *O Holy Night* (see insert)
*(switch your electric candles ON during this hymn;
keep them lit through the Revelation reading)*

†*Jesus Among Us John 1:1-14
*(switch your candles OFF following this reading
and before the next hymn)*

†*Seventh Carol: *Joy to the World* UMH 246

*A HOLIDAY BLESSING FOR YOU

*MARCH TO THE MANGER

*You are invited to make your way forward
and place your “gift” (financial or otherwise) in the manger.*

Please drop off your candles in the bin on your way out! Thank you!

*You are invited to join us on Sunday mornings at 10:00am!
Our services are live streamed on our YouTube channel.
Search for “Port Edwards United Methodist Church” on youtube.com.*

You may do so on facebook.com as well!



Sunday Services – 10:00 AM

December 29th

First Sunday of Christmastide

Newborn Saints Sunday

*(a celebration of those born
in the past year)*

January 12th

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Reaffirm Our Baptismal Vows

Packing of the Greens

after the service

January 5th

Epiphany Sunday

Holy Communion Sunday

Blessing of Our Homes

January 19th

Ecumenical Sunday

January 26th

Wesley's Covenant Renewal

About Tonight's Service

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols started in 1918 at King's College in Cambridge, England. During World War I, Eric Milner-White, dean of the college, was concerned that the distress of the "Great War" had hardened attitudes against religion.

Since the beginning, "Once in Royal David's City" has opened the service, followed by a bidding prayer inviting worshippers to 'go unto Bethlehem' in their imaginations and holding in prayer the many who are far from glad in their personal and shared suffering. The prayer ends by mentioning those who have passed from this mortal life; when this was first written, Milner-White had in mind all who were bereaved by the violence of war and the recent deaths of thousands of loved ones. The scripture readings have largely remained the same. They are the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is interspersed with the singing of hymns. The order and selection of hymns do vary from year to year. The service always ends with Charles Wesley's "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing."

The service, and its message, have a beautiful simplicity. It is a beloved tradition rooted in healing, because it was forged in the fires of war, grief, and suffering. Rather than leading with the holly-jolly razzle-dazzle that can crush a bruised spirit, this service tenderly invites the congregant into a holy stillness.

Like the very candles flickering throughout our darkened sanctuary, the hope and joy that headline much of the Christmas season shine brighter against the acknowledgement of brokenness, pain, and wait.

MY GIFT TO BABY JESUS

(write a message/draw a picture in the space below)
**(you are invited to come forward at the end of the service
to place your “Gift” in the manger)**

CONNECT TO JESUS’ FAMILY

*Let us send you a “2025 Blessing”
by email, phone, or mail!*

My name is: _____

My email / address / phone # is *(choose preferred):*

#1:

**O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
it is the night of our dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin & error pining,
'til He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
for yonder breaks a new & glorious morn.**

Fall – on your knees!

O hear – the angel voic—es!

O night – divine,

O night . . . when Christ was born!

O night! O ho – ly night!

O night Divine!

#2:

**Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
with glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
here came the Wise Men from Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,
in all our trials born to be our Friend.**

(reverse side)

**He – knows our need!
To our weak – ness is no stranger!
Behold – your King,
before – Him lowly bend!
Behold – your King,
before – Him lowly bend!**

#3:

**Truly He taught us to love one another.
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break
for the slave is our brother;
and in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy
in grateful chorus raise we,
let all within us praise His holy name!**

**Christ – is the Lord!
O praise – His Name forever!
His pow'r – and glo—ry
e—vermore proclaim!
His pow'r – and glo—ry
e—vermore proclaim!**