

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

December 24, 2008

5:00 pm

**Welcome to Berea Friendship United Methodist Church as we
celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ!**

We gather to celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ to our world. If you are new to our community, we welcome you this night. All are invited to participate as we rejoice and worship God. You may want to keep in mind the following as you join in our worship:

- Words in **bold print** are to be said or sung in unison;
- An asterisk (*) indicates that you are to stand if able.

PRELUDE

Christmas Carols

LIGHTING OF ADVENT AND ALTAR CANDLES

*GREETING AND CHRISTMAS ACCLAMATION

Rejoicing in the birth of the Christ child, let us gather in peace, Alleluia, Alleluia!

In the name of Christ, Amen, Alleluia!

Christ is born, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Christ is born indeed, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*HYMN NO. 234 “O Come, All Ye Faithful” vv.1, 2, 4 & 6

*OPENING PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray...

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7

SPECIAL MUSIC

Sweet Little Jesus Boy
(Sung by Myrtle Hall-Smith)

(McGinsky)

*CAROL NO. 238 “Angels We Have Heard on High” (stanza 1)

*GOSPEL LESSON Luke 2:1-10

*CAROL “Angels We Have Heard on High (stanza 2)

SERMON “What Kind of Light Has Come?” Pastor Keith Ray

RESPONDING TO THE WORD IN SILENCE

OFFERTORY **Infant Holy, Infant Lowly** (Hamlin)

DOXOLOGY - No. 95

*TAKING THE BREAD AND CUP

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING Hymnal, p. 15

THE LORD’S PRAYER

BREAKING THE BREAD

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

*You are invited to come forward as we share in the gifts of God for the people of God. In the United Methodist tradition, all are invited to the table who hunger for Christ. You will be given a piece of bread. **Very lightly** dip the bread into the cup and partake of the communion. You may kneel for a time of prayer or simply return to a seat. We will sing the following carols during communion:*

219 What Child Is This

220 Angels from the Realms of Glory

240 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SERVICE OF THE LIGHT

*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world!

A light no darkness can overcome! Alleluia!

*HYMN No. 239 “Silent Night, Holy Night”

1. Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother & child.
Holy infant, so tender & mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

3. 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 they birth.

4. Silent night, holy night,
wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

*RESPONSE TO THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world!

A light no darkness can overcome.

*A CHRISTMAS BLESSING

*POSTLUDE **Christmas Medley** (Warford)

*GOING FORTH TO BEAR WITNESS TO THE LIGHT