



*Poinsettias Decorating the
Chancel*

In memory of **Mason Enger** and our parents
—Don & Bev Enger
In memory of **Milly Hanson**
—Hanson family
In memory of **loved ones**
—Gordon & VirLyn Hoff
In memory of **Darin and Pat Malec**
—Malec families
In memory of **Connie Olson and Dorothy & Vince Olson**
—Perry, Becky, & Berkley Kuss
In memory of **Dorothy Roorda**
—Perry Roorda
In memory of **Herb Triebold**
—Pat Triebold, Kathy & John, Erik & Kathy, Denise & Bill,
Diane & Art, Jeff & Pam, and Duane
In memory of **Allen and George Nielson**
—Pat, Steve, & Mary Lee Nielson
In memory of **Ty and Alex Peterson**
—Steve & Mary Lee Nielson and Carol Peterson
In memory of **Bonnie Burchill**
—Family of Bonnie Burchill

Christmas Offering

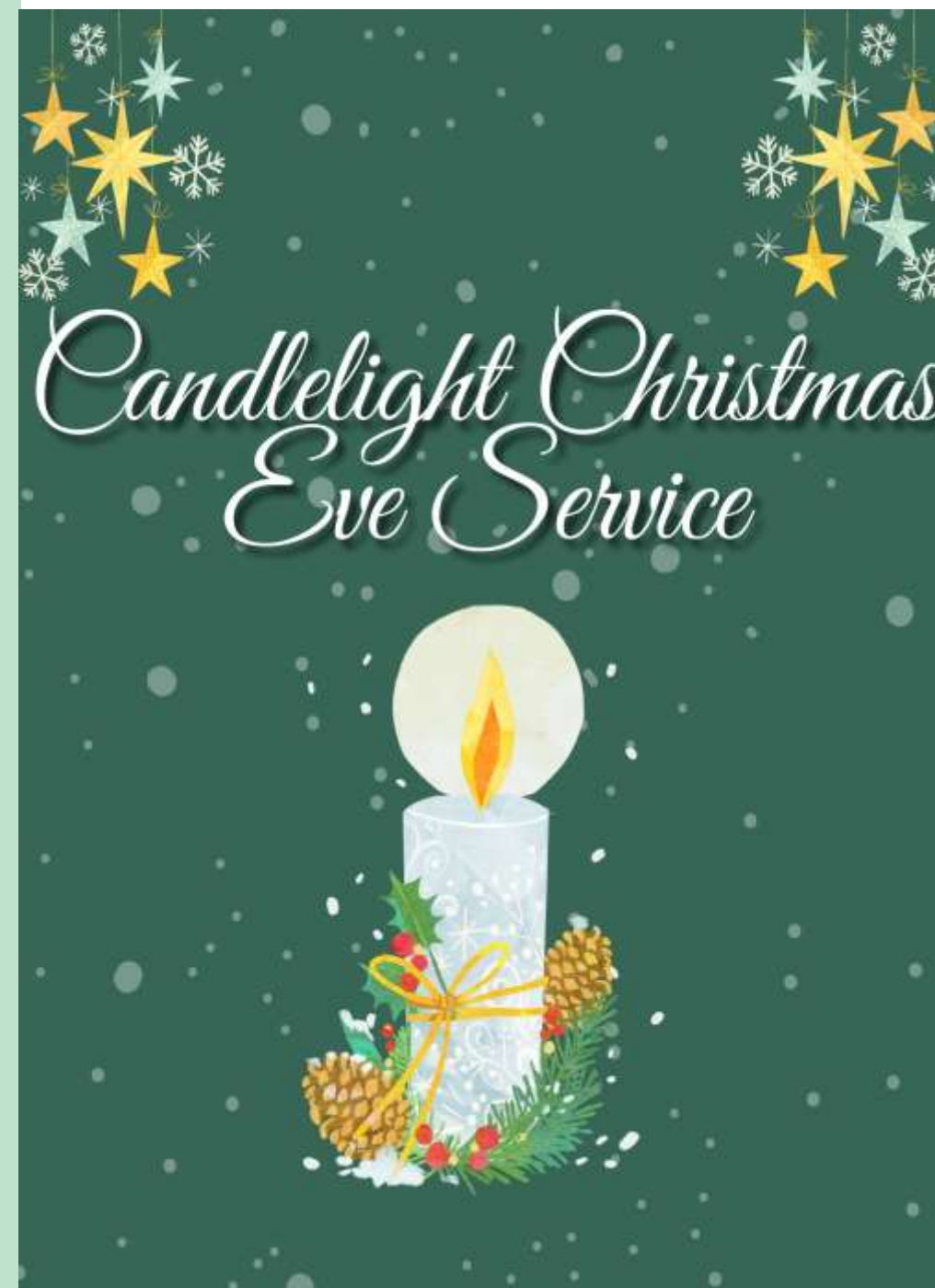
We do not take tonight's offering for the church, but rather for ministries that benefit others outside of the church. It has become an Epworth Christmas tradition to give away our Christmas Eve offering. This demonstrates that we are God's people and that the birth of Christ came as great joy for all people – those in this church, those around this community, and those farther away.

Tonight's offering will be split between the Backpack Program and the Barnes County Food Pantry.

Welcome! If you're a guest, know that we're glad you're here, and that we'd love to get to know you better. If this is your first visit, welcome. If you are returning, welcome back!

This service is livestreamed at epworthvalleycity.com

Christmas Eve Worship
December 24, 2023
5:00 p.m.



680 8th Ave. SW
Valley City, ND 58072
Phone: 701-845-0340
epworthvalleycity.com

Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 24, 2023

Please Note: (+) You are invited to stand as able.

Large print hymnals and bulletins are available upon request to an usher.

The Church Gathers to Worship

+Welcome to worship tonight. We invite everyone present to fully participate in our celebration as we celebrate the birth of Christ.

Advent Wreath Lighting –

Reader 1: To a people longing for hope and yearning for deliverance, the prophet Isaiah declared, “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined ... For a child has been born for us, a Son given to us; authority rests upon His shoulders; and He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Reader 2: Tonight, we come seeking hope, peace, joy, and love, and we find these things in a child. God made flesh as a baby in a manger. A baby who is both the beginning and the end of our salvation, who dwells with us even now, our Emmanuel, God with us.

Congregation: We live as people in the in-between who celebrate the arrival of the Light that shines in lost and broken places as we wait for the day when we will live in the fullness of God’s kin-dom.

By Dr. Lisa Hancock, © 2023 by Discipleship Ministries and published at <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/>

Opening Song – No. 211 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” v. 1, 6 & 7

The Church Lifts Prayers to God

Unison Prayer of Confession –

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy Him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit, He lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

From The New Handbook of the Christian Year by H.L. Hickman, D.E. Sailors, et. al © 1986, 1992 by Abingdon Press

Call for Children — No. 2095 *Star Child vs. 1*

Time Mostly for Children —

Children’s Dismissal — No. 2095 *Star Child vs. 3*



The Church Hears God’s Word

Lesson One – Isaiah 40:1-5

Meditation

Carol – No. 196 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Lesson Two – Luke 2:1-7

Meditation

Carol – No. 234 *O Come, All Ye Faithful vs. 1 & 6*

Lesson Three – Luke 2:8-14

Sermon

Carol – No. 220 *Angels From the Realms of Glory*

The Church Responds to God’s Word

Offertory –

+ **Doxology** No. 95

+ **Prayer of Dedication**

Lesson Four – Luke 2:15-20

Meditation

+ **Carol –** No. 239 *Silent Night, Holy Night*

+ **Lighting of Christmas Candles**

+**Dismissal with Blessing —**

Leader: Tonight, we lit a few candles, and we passed them on.

All: We received the light, felt its warmth on our faces, and passed that light on to others.

Leader: As we shared and multiplied the light, it began to surround each of us and to bathe us all in a warm, accepting glow.

All: May we carry the glow of Christ with us not only tonight but every day and everywhere we go, so that we might multiply God’s Light on Earth.

Leader: Tonight, we softly sang of a silent night in which God’s light pierced the darkness and embodied a vulnerable baby born to us and for us. As we sang, we marveled at the peace that fell over us all.

All: Love came down at Christmas. That gives us peace. We go to reflect that love, peace, and hope to others. That makes us merry this Christmas. Amen.

+**Closing Song —** No. 246 *Joy to the World*

+**Postlude —**