



LOVE KNOWS YOUR NAME

Christmas Eve * December 24, 2024

Prelude

Pauline Buller
Joanna Wenger – *Carol of the Bells*
Arwen Iwashige – *What Child is This*
Lucia Iwashige – *Joy to the World*

Welcome & Call to Worship *Adapted from Luke 2:1-14*

Pastor Tonya Ramer Wenger

In those days, in the beginning,
Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem.
He was to be registered, and she was expecting a child.
The time came for Mary to give birth, so she delivered her child,
wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger.

**And the angels sang,
“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth, peace to all whom God favors.”**

Let us worship our with-us God.
Let us sing songs of praise!

HYMN *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* VT 247

Trae Gehring, Pauline Buller

Candle-Lighting Liturgy

Pastor Jim Unruh

One: In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

**All: Let us begin with hope.
Let us begin with peace.
Let us begin with joy.
Let us begin with love.**

One: Yes, let us begin with love, for surely love knows your name.

Today, in addition to the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, we light the Christ Candle.

For surely God is in this place.

Surely the Spirit is near.

Surely love knows our name.

**All: May we rest in that good news.
Unto us a child is born.
A light shines in the darkness and the
darkness cannot overcome it.
Glory to God in the highest heaven! Amen.**

Kristal Bells – *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Magdalena Wenger

Just a Little Christmas

(written by Sharon Kay Chatwell)

Sonny-Side Singers Choir, directed by Peggy Stucky

Narrator 1 – Hannah Nisly
Narrator 2 – Reuben Wenger
Narrator 3 – Ryker Wiens
Mary – Sky Miller
Joseph – Javion Crable
Inn Keeper – Jaxton Crable
King Herod – Arlo Pounds

Shepherd – Milo Miller
Soldiers – group
3 Kings – Joel Iwashige, Adam Pounds,
Shane Miller
Angel 1 – Joanna Wenger
Angel 2 – Lucia Iwashige
Angel 3 – Arwen Iwashige

Congregational Hymns (interspersed): *O Little Town of Bethlehem* VT 245
While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks VT 253

Children's Choir: *Away in a Manger, We Bow Down*

Quartet: *O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem*

Stephanie Gehring, Trae Gehring, Maggie Pounds, Peggy Stucky

Children's Choir with Congregation: *Go Tell It on the Mountain* VT 252

String accompanists: Magdalena Wenger, Shane Miller, Adam Pounds

Affirmation Of Faith

We believe that on a night like this one,
a baby was born and placed in a manger.
We believe that baby was God's love in the flesh,
who grew up to love the outcast and change the world.
We believe that Jesus' love was so big and so personal
that the world will never be the same.
So despite the mystery of this holy night,
we believe that a star shone, that the shepherds ran,
that the angels sang, and that love was born.
*Yes, we believe it when the prophets say that unto you,
unto us, a savior is born.*
Glory to God in the highest heaven! We believe.

Kristal Bells – *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Offering & Prayers of the People

Tonight, we dedicate 70 Infant Care Kits to be distributed by Mennonite Central Committee to families in need around the world. You can still donate toward this project! Leave a donation in the basket at the back (*checks made out to First Mennonite designated for Baby Bundles*) or make a designated online donation (@ hutchfmc.org).

Silent Night & Candle Lighting

Please **slide your cup down and tip the UN-lit candle toward the upright already lit candle** to minimize dripping of wax. Once your candle is lit, hold it upright to share light with others, and then slide your cup back up to fully enclose the flame. When the lights are turned off, we'll sing *Silent Night* together (lyrics on screen).

Benediction

(Words for Worship in this service by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.)
