

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
December 24, 2022 at 5:00 pm  
West Bend Church

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP "Carol of the Bells" Handbells  
"Joy To The World"

MUSICAL SPECIAL Carol Petty

\*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN "Away in a Manger" UMH 217

\*CHRISTMAS EVE LITANY (based on Luke 2)

Leader: This is what happened the night that Jesus our Savior was born. Mary and Joseph who were pledged to be married were on their way to Bethlehem to take place in the census.

**People: And Mary who was a virgin had conceived this child of the Holy Spirit whose time it was to be born. Yet there was no room for them in the crowded inns of Bethlehem.**

Leader: With nowhere else to stay, they found shelter in a stable and there Mary gave birth to a son, the Son of God. She wrapped him in the swaddling cloths that newborn lambs would be wrapped in by their shepherds. Then she laid him in the manger or the feeding trough like a crib.

**People: This birth may have been overlooked by the people in Bethlehem, but the angels of heaven were rejoicing that God's eternal plan for the salvation of people was underway. The angels could not contain themselves and they revealed themselves and a message to of all people, some shepherds way out in the fields with their sheep.**

Leader: The shepherds were terrified at seeing the angels. The angels told the shepherds to not be afraid. Their message was of Good News that people needed to know. The Savior has been born. He is the long-awaited Messiah, the Lord. He has been born to you! Go see him now.

**People: And with that, the shepherds went to see him while the angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace and goodwill to all who will accept God's favor."**

Leader: The angels sang at the birth of the Savior. The shepherds rejoiced to be included in God's plan of salvation. Mary and Joseph treasured in their hearts what God was doing through them and all around them. Tonight, let us sing and rejoice and treasure the fact that Jesus has come. He is our Savior, Emmanuel, God with us now and forever more. Amen.

OFFERTORY

2 Corinthians 9:15  
Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

OFFERTORY SPECIAL "The First Noel" Chuck Welch

\*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN UMH 240  
"Hark The Herald Angels Sing"

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:26-33

*<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."*

MESSAGE Rev. Kari L. Howard  
What If?  
Series: The Promises of Christmas

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

{During the Lord's Supper, the ushers will guide you when it is time to receive the communion elements. When you come forward, you will be given a piece of bread and then may receive a cup at the altar table. Once you receive communion, you may return to your seat or you may kneel or stand at the altar area for a time of personal prayer.}

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

THE LORD'S PRAYER In Unison  
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD  
THE GIVING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

MUSICAL SPECIAL (during communion)  
"Messiah" Kerri Beth Frazier

HANDBELL MUSIC  
The First Noel,  
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

\*CHRISTMAS CANDLE LIGHTING CELEBRATION

{As we begin to sing, ushers will light the candle of the first person on each row. Those people will then take their candles and light the candle of the person next to them, who will do the same until all the candles are lit. On the final stanza of Silent Night, Holy Night, you are invited to hold your candle up high. After the service, you may place your candle in the box as you leave.}

\*CONGREGATIONAL SONG UMH 239  
"Silent Night, Holy Night"

1. Silent Night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and 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 thy 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!

\*BENEDICTION

Worship Leader: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

**Congregation: On those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.**

Worship Leader: For unto us a child is born, a son is given! He is the Light of the world.

**Congregation: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling place among us.**

**All: Jesus, we are thankful you were born on earth even though you are eternal. That you died for our sins and have risen to offer us new life here on earth and eternal life with you. Amen.**

\*RECESSIONAL Joy To The World UMH 246, vs. 1  
Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare him room,  
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

POSTLUDE

\*Please stand as you are able.

**Thank You Notes**

Dear West Bend Family,

Words cannot begin to thank you for the generous Christmas love offering you gave to me. It will be put to good use. Know that I have appreciate our years together and how we have grown together. I know that God still has great things in store for West Bend Church. Keep seeking His will for each of you and the church. You will be in my prayers. May God bless and keep you always!

Pastor Kari

Dear West Bend Family,

Thank you for remembering me at Christmas. I really appreciate the gift! This is my 26th year working at West Bend Church. Time truly passes quickly. Merry Christmas to each of you!

Debra

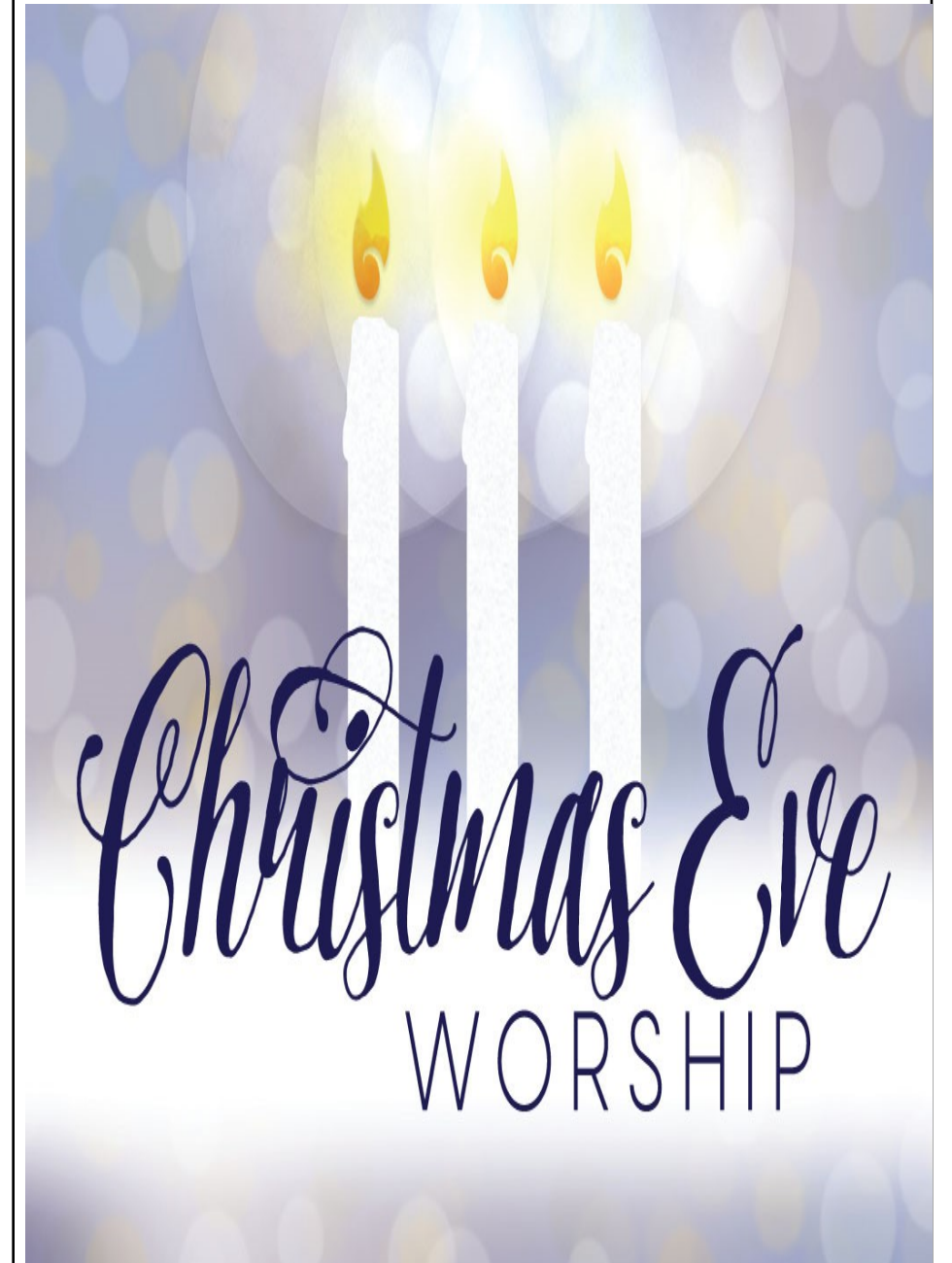
**West Bend Church**

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**Christmas Eve, December 24, 2022**



***We want to welcome you  
to our worship service!***

***If you are a visitor, please fill out one of the Connection Cards.  
Cards are in the pews and in the back of the church.  
Completed cards may be placed in the offering plate.***