



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**310 Oak Street, Irwin, PA 15642**

**724-863-6858**

**www.irwinfirstumc.org**

Rev. David S. Lake – Pastor

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**December 24, 2014 - Christmas Eve**

***“Silent Night, Holy Night”***

**MUSIC OF PREPARATION**

**7:30 “On Christmas Night, All Christians Sing” Temple Bells**

**11:00 “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” and others**

**GATHERING & WELCOME** *(Please sign the red pad in the pews.)*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Leader:** The light has burst forth! Rays of sparkling, glittering light have shattered the darkness.

**Women:** **Jesus Christ is born!**

**Men:** **This is the prophesied event. The Messiah has come!**

**Leader:** Nothing will ever be the same.

**Women:** **This child has been born for us and to us. He is God's gracious gift.**

**Men:** **The hosts of heaven welcome his arrival. Let the celebration begin!**

**Leader:** As we come to know him, we come to know God.

**Women:** **Even his names speak truth into the world.**

**Men:** **Amazing Counselor, Strong God.**

**Leader:** Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

**Women:** **A new beginning has dawned!**

**Men:** **He brings peace and justice for all peoples.**

**Leader:** God's righteousness has entered the human fray.

**Women:** **God's kingdom is inaugurated.**

**Men:** **The darkness will never again obscure the light.**

**All:** **Jesus Christ is born!**

**UNISON PRAYER:**

**Shine into our hearts, Eternal Light. Illumine us with the radiance of your glory. Banish our fear and dispel our darkness, that we may trust you wholeheartedly and offer ourselves gladly in your service.**

**Quiet us on this holy night that we may experience the miracle of the Incarnation anew: God becoming human, love taking on hate, weakness overcoming the powers of this world. May we see in the tiny face of this newborn the gift of the ages being offered to us -- life with you, life without end, life that is love and peace and joy. Amen.**

**\*HYMN 234** *“O Come All Ye Faithful”*

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

**ADVENT SONG**

**Until Jesus comes, until Jesus comes,**

**I'll be watching and waiting until Jesus comes.**

**(repeat)**

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***THE LIGHT FORETOLD***

**SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 9:2-7**

**HYMN No. 209      *"Blessed Be the God of Israel"***

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***THE LIGHT RECEIVED***

**FIRST LESSON: Luke 1:26-35**

**SPECIAL MUSIC      *"Ave Maria"***

**SECOND LESSON: Luke 2: 1-7**

**ANTHEM 7:30      *"Away in a Manger" - Sonshiners***

**11:00      *"A Little Bitty Baby" – Chancel Choir***

**THIRD LESSON: Luke 2:8-12**

**\*HYMN No. 229      *"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"***

**FOURTH LESSON: Luke 2:13-20**

**\*HYMN No. 238      *"Angels We Have Heard on High"***

**PRESENTATION OF GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY      7:30      *"Christmas Hope Medley" - SonShiners***

**11:00      *"A Song of Christmas" – Chancel Choir***

**\*DOXOLOGY      *"Christmas Doxology"***

***"Glory be to God the Father, glory be to Christ the Son.***

***Glory to the Holy Spirit, glory to the Three-in-One.***

***Here we offer to you gladly, all the gifts that you impart,***

***As we glory in your presence, giving from a grateful heart."***

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKS**

Glorious God, we sing with the angels to celebrate the tremendous gift of your Son Jesus! We rejoice with gladness. You give us wonderful joy and peace in our Savior. May we exult in your goodness with the exhilaration of children opening presents. As we bring our offerings, we ask that our lives would reflect your joy and generosity. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READING: Titus 2: 11-14**

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***THE LIGHT IS SHARED***

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD**

**L:** There was no room at the inn for Mary and Joseph. Is there room in our hearts for God's salvation?

**P: May there be room, O God. May there be room.**

**L:** There was amazement in the fields at the angel's news. Is there amazement in our hearts for God's salvation.

**P: May there be amazement, O God. May there be amazement.**

**L:** There was joy in Mary's heart as she beheld her son. Is there joy in our hearts for God's salvation?

**P: May there be joy, O God. May there be joy.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC “Celebrations Medley”**

**CHRISTMAS MEDITATION**

**LIGHTING OF CANDLES**

**\*CAROL No. 239 “Silent Night”**

**TOLLING THE CHRISTMAS BELL**

**\*HYMN No. 246 “Joy to the World”**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**God of light and love, shine upon us this Christmas Eve and in the year ahead. Guide us out of darkness and into your joyous light. May our lives reflect your glorious love, that others may see your Christmas Spirit in us, each and every day of our lives. Amen**

**\*MUSIC OF PARTING “Joy to the World”**

**\*Those who are able, please stand.**

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***We welcome you this evening and would like to extend an invitation to you to worship with us on:***

**S**aturdays: 6:00 PM – Alternative Worship

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**S**undays: 8:00 AM - Prayer Meeting  
8:15 AM & 10:45 AM – Traditional Worship  
9:30 AM – Sunday School

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***Following is a list of programs we have for the youth of our church:***

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** 9:30 - 10:30 AM each Sunday.

We have classes from toddler to adult. We also have a nursery department during church hours.

**YOUTH GROUPS:** (fumc.youth@comcast.net)

**FISH (Faithful In Serving Him)** grades 9-12

**CHIPS (Christ’s Helpers In Prayerful Service)** grades 5-8

**MUSIC:** Director: Dianne Runser (fumc.dianne.mm@comcast.net)

**SonShiners** – grades 1-6 meets

**Temple Bells** – all age ringers

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**EPIPHANY SUNDAY  
CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS  
Sunday, January 4, 2015**



Please bring a candle and put your name on the bottom of it. We will light the candles during the service. After the service, come up, take a different candle home with you, and throughout the year, pray for the family or individual whose name is on the bottom of that candle.

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