Divine Street United Methodist Church
Sunday, December 24, 2017
11:00 a.m.

LESSONS AND CAROLS

ENTRANCE
The people come together in the Lord's name.

PRELUDE

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST AMONG US

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

*CALL TO WORSHIP
One: Greetings, favored ones! Do not be afraid. The Lord is with you.
All: Holy Spirit, come upon us. Power of the Most High, overshadow us.

*OPENING PRAYER
Holy God, our souls rejoice in your presence. Speak now your word in our singing that our lives may rejoice in your way. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing* UMH 240

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

PROCLAMATION
The Scriptures are opened to the people.

THE BIDDING PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER UMH 895

CHORAL RESPONSE TO PRAYER

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 9:6-7 OT 572

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES
One: When we look at the fourth candle, we remember God's promise of peace. We recall the words of Jesus in John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you." We want to remember that Jesus is the one who brings peace.
All: As we approach Christmas, let's remember that God's intention is a place of peace where people shake hands instead of harm one another.
One: Let us pray. Dear God, thank you for your son, Jesus. Thank you for those in our world today who seek to act for peace. Help us look for ways to be peacemakers at home, at church and at school.
All: Amen.

ADVENT SONG *Light the Advent Candle* (verses 1-4) TFWS 2090

CHILDREN'S SERMON Jesus' Birthday

LESSONS AND CAROLS

FIRST LESSON	Genesis 3:8-19	OT 3
CAROL	*Of the Father's Love Begotten*	UMH 184
SECOND LESSON	Genesis 22:15-18	OT 18
CAROL	*What Child Is This*	UMH 219
THIRD LESSON	Isaiah 9:2-7	OT 571
CAROL	*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*	UMH 218
FOURTH LESSON	Micah 5:2-5	OT 750
CAROL	*O Little Town of Bethlehem*	UMH 230
FIFTH LESSON	Luke 1:26-38	NT 52
CAROL	*My Soul Gives Glory to My God*	UMH 198
SIXTH LESSON	Luke 2:1-7	NT 53
ANTHEM	*The Journey*	Dengler
SEVENTH LESSON	Luke 2:8-16	NT 53
CAROL	*While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*	UMH 236
EIGHTH LESSON	Matthew 2:1-11	NT 1
CAROL	*We Three Kings*	UMH 254
*NINTH LESSON	John 1:1-14	NT 84
*CAROL	*Joy to the World*	UMH 246

RESPONSE
The people respond with acts of commitment and faith.

OFFERING
Offertory
*Doxology *Gloria* UMH 238

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING
Mighty One, who chose from among the least and the lowliest, Mary who would become the Mother of our Savior: Remind us again that your selection criteria for greatness is so different from ours. You choose the humble over the proud, the weak over the strong, the poor over the rich and powerful. We pray this morning as we give these gifts that you might use them to lift the lowly, feed the hungry, bring justice to those oppressed, bring love to those feeling unloved, and hope to those who feel forgotten. We pray in the Holy name of Jesus. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

The people are sent into ministry with the Lord's blessing.

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT *Go, Tell It On the Mountain* UMH 251

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES FORTH

*BENEDICTION *Away in a Manger* – verse 3 UMH 217

Be near me, Lord Jesus,
I ask thee to stay
close by me forever,
and love me, I pray.

Bless all the dear children
in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven
to live with thee there.

*POSTLUDE

* = Please stand as you are able.
NT = New Testament, OT = Old Testament
UMH = United Methodist Hymnal
TFWS = The Faith We Sing

A fully staffed and stocked nursery is available for your convenience. Also, the rocking chairs in the Sanctuary are for rocking your little ones.

Please ask an usher if you need any assistance.

Merry Christmas!

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are given to the glory and praise of Almighty God and the gift of his Son, and in loving memory of Effie Wright on her birthday, December 24, and of Mahlon and Effie Wright's 73rd wedding anniversary, December 27. Now in His hands, but always in our hearts. We love and miss you, Nicole and Scott Gossage.

Please invite your friends and family to our Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion worship service this evening at 6:00 p.m.

December 24, 2017

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A Place to…Belong…Believe…Become