



NEWTOWN United Methodist Church

December 24, 2025 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 11:00 PM

◆ A Service of Scripture and Light ◆

Welcome. Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Prepare your hearts for worship in stillness and prayer.

Choral Prelude “I Wonder As I Wander” arr. S. Pilkington
Julia Wilder, Jenna L. Sims, Domi Liu, Benjamin Shivley, Grisha P. Ivanov

Welcome

*Opening Hymn “O Come, All Ye Faithful” UMH #234
(Verses 1, 2, 3, & 6)

*Call to Worship

Leader: Come, all who are weary from the weight of this world.

People: We come carrying hopes and fears, joy and sorrow.

Leader: Tonight, we remember the mystery of Christmas:

People: God did not remain distant, but came near.

Leader: In Jesus Christ, God entered our human life,

People: To walk our roads, share our burdens, and know our pain.

Leader: Come and behold the love that stepped into the world.

People: We worship the God who is with us, now and always. Amen.

Special Music “Gesu Bambino” P.A. Yon
Julia Wilder, Jenna L. Sims, Grisha P. Ivanov

*Prayer for Illumination

God of holy mystery, as we hear again the story of Christ’s birth, draw near to us by Your Spirit. Open our hearts to the wonder of Your presence. Help us to hear this story not as something distant, but as good news

spoken into our own lives. Quiet our fears, still our distractions, and illuminate our minds, that we may receive Your Word with humility and trust; Your Word made flesh in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Readings and Carols

Reading 1 Isaiah 9:2, 6–7 Pew Bible pg. 638
Hymn “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” UMH #218, (Verses 1 & 4)

Reading 2 Luke 2:1–7 Pew Bible pg. 58
Hymn “Angels We Have Heard on High” UMH #238, (Verses 1 & 3)

Reading 3 Luke 2:8–14 Pew Bible pg. 58
Hymn “The First Noel” UMH #245 (Verses 1 & 5)

Reading 4 Luke 2:15–20 Pew Bible pg. 58
Hymn “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” UMH #240, (Verses 1 & 3)

Reading 5 John 1:1–14 Pew Bible pg. 91
Special Music “O Holy Night” A. Adam

Julia Wilder, Jenna L. Sims, Grisha P. Ivanov

Dedicating Our Resources to God

*Response Doxology, UMH #94

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Offertory Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer (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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Choral Anthem “O Magnum Mysterium” F. Poulenc
Julia Wilder, Jenna L. Sims, Domi Liu, Benjamin Shively, Grisha P. Ivanov

CANDLELIGHTING

(The pastor will take his light from the Christ candle, then pass it to those assisting and to worshippers nearest the center aisle. Always hold your lit candle upright; your neighbor should dip his/her unlit candle to receive the light as we stand and sing Silent Night together).

*Carol of Meditation “Silent Night” *See Insert*

The Charge and Benediction

*Hymn “Joy to The World” UMH #246
(Verses 1, 2, & 4)

Postlude Fanfare Willcocks

*Please Stand if able

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Rev. Rodney Brailsford, Pastor
Kathy Mershon, Administrative Assistant
Duomi Liu, Choral Director/Organist

