***A Family Service for Christmas Eve***

***December 24, 2018***

***Five O’clock in the Evening***

The Ringing of the Hour

Words of Welcome *(Guests, please sign the red fellowship pad.)*

***We Prepare Our Hearts to Receive the New Born King***

Prelude

 A Prayer to Begin Christmas Eve

\* Carol 23 *“Angels We Have Heard on High”* Gloria

The Lighting of the Advent and Christ Candles (1=First Reader*, 2=Second Reader*, **A=All**)

 1: Why do we light all five candles?

 *2: Jesus said, “I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” So we light all the candles to celebrate that Jesus is with us.*

 1: What do the candles mean?

 *2: On Christmas Eve the first candle is a reminder of the promise of hope spoken by the prophets. The second candle is symbolic of the warmth of love given by Joseph and Mary in Bethlehem’s stable. The third candle reminds us of the great joy which surrounded the shepherds as they made their way to manger side. The fourth candle reminds us of God’s glorious peace brought by the angles who announced our Savior’s birth. The white center candle is the Christ Candle, which reminds us that Jesus is the Son of God, both now and for all eternity.*

 **All: O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all peoples!**

 **All Sing: *All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace:* (Hymn 59)**

 ***Good will to all from highest heaven,***

 ***Begin and never cease! Begin and never cease!***

***Directions for Lighting Advent Candles on Sunday Mornings in Advent and on Christmas Eve***

**Prior to Sunday Morning or Christmas Eve:**

1. Review reading parts on Bulletin Draft (above) and assign parts.
2. Practice reading parts aloud several times before Sunday morning.
3. Decide who will light the candle(s).

**Before Worship Begins:**

1. Let me know you are here when you arrive at least by 4:45 (15 minutes before start).
2. Find a place to sit as close to the front as possible.
3. Find the lighter and become familiar with how it works. The lighter should be on the wreath and stand between the candles or under the Bible at the rear of the pulpit.

**During the Worship Service:**

1. I will call you forward following the Choral Call to Worship. Gather behind the wreath and stand facing the congregation.
2. Speaking up in order for the microphone to amplify you, read the first part.
3. As the second part is read a second person lights the purple candle(s), beginning with the candle closest to the congregation.

1st Sunday in Advent- one purple

2nd Sunday in Advent- two purple

3rd Sunday in Advent- three purple

4th Sunday in Advent- three purple and one pink

Christmas Eve- three purple and one pink and then the white center candle is lit last.

1. Finish reading the remaining parts including the response with the congregation.
2. After the liturgy is completed you may be seated. Thank you for your assistance.

Any questions give me a call. 526-4800 or 763-0186