

TULLY UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH

December 24, 2022, 9:00 PM
The Rev. Richard G. Reed, Pastor



CHRISTMAS EVE

-WE GATHER TO WORSHIP THE LIVING GOD –

STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Tully United Community Church would like to acknowledge with respect the Onondaga Nation, Fire-keepers of the Haudenosaunee, the indigenous peoples on whose ancestral lands our buildings now stand.

PRELUDE

SOLO

“O Holy Night”
Pamela Poulen, Soprano

P. Cappeau/A. Adam

GREETING

Officiant: Beloved in Christ, with delight we prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and go in heart and mind to Bethlehem to see Mary and Joseph, and Baby Jesus lying in a manger. Let us listen to the story of God's saving acts and celebrate the birth of this Holy Child. And let us make these hallowed walls reverberate with the glad tidings of great joy which is to all the people.

1. O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain:

O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

2. True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,
lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten not created; (Refrain)

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; (Refrain)

6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: (Refrain)

(Please be seated)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Good news! Unspeakable joy!

People: A great light has burst forth, overcoming the darkness!

Liturgist: To us a child is born—to us a son has been given!

**People: He brings a kingdom of endless peace, and we shall call him
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God!**

Liturgist: Come, let us see what God has brought us!

People: Come, let us see what the Lord has done!

Liturgist: Glory to God in the highest!

People: And on earth, peace and goodwill to all!

CANDLELIGHTING CEREMONY

Liturgist: Light of Light, shine in our hearts and renew our hope.

People: Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come.

L: Light of Light, shine in our hearts and grant us peace.

P: Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come.

L: Light of Light, shine in our hearts and bring us true joy.

P: Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come.

L: Light of Light, shine in our hearts and fill us with love.

P: Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come.

(The Advent Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love are lighted along with the Christ Candle in the Center)

Liturgist: Tonight we light all five candles – the candles of hope, peace, joy, love and finally, the Christ Candle, celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior. The candle of hope reminds us that in sending Christ, God sent hope to the earth. The candle of peace reminds us that peace will one day reign. The candle of joy is a reminder that we have been given eternal life and have no reason to be fearful. And the candle of love represents God's redeeming love for us, brought to earth in the form of a tiny child – Jesus born in Bethlehem.

Liturgist: Jesus Christ is the Light of the World!

People: A Light no darkness can extinguish!

****CAROL**

“Joy To The World”

#246

**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.**

**2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**3. No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.**

**4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

****PASSING THE PEACE**

Officiant: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Officiant: Let us share signs and words of peace with our neighbors.

-WE REJOICE IN HEARING THE WORD OF GOD-

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the
fire.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.
Here ends the reading.

PSALTER

Psalm 96

#815

R  **The Lord comes, the Lord comes, and all creation sings for joy.** 

Liturgist: O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!

**People: Sing to the LORD, bless God's name;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

L: Declare the Lord's glory among the nations,
the Lord's marvelous works among all the peoples!

**P: For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
to be feared above all gods.**

L: For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.

**P: Honor and majesty are before the Lord;
in whose sanctuary are strength and beauty.** **R**

L: Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**P: Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name!
Bring an offering, and come into the courts of the Lord!**

L: Worship the LORD in holy splendor;

P: tremble before the Lord, all the earth! **R**

L: Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!

**P: The Lord has established the world, it shall
never be moved.
The Lord will judge the peoples with equity."**

L: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
let the field exult, and everything in it!

**P: Then shall all the trees of the wood sing for joy
before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.
The Lord will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with his truth.** **R**

-THE NATIVITY IS PROCLAIMED IN WORD AND SONG-

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Officiant: *Lord, open our minds and hearts by the power of your Holy Spirit, that we may hear and rejoice in the gospel of our Saviour's birth, told in story and song this night. Amen.*

The Birth of Jesus – + Luke 2:1-7 +

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guest room.

CAROL (seated)

“It Came Upon The Midnight Clear”

#218

**1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.**

**2. Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.**

**3. And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!**

**4. For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.**

The Angels Announce the Birth to the Shepherds – + Luke 2:8-18 +

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will

find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

****CAROL**

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

#240

**1. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"**

**2. Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th' incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"**

**3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"**

A CHRISTMAS STORY

Read by Sonja Shepherd

BELL CHOIR ANTHEM

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

Fred Gramann

Kay Crosley Bell Choir

-WE BOW BEFORE THE LORD IN PRAYER-

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Bidding: Lord Jesus Christ;

Response: Hear us and bless us!

*Celebrant: O God, you are never revealed so completely as in the face of the child of Bethlehem. Hear us as we give you thanks for those who today reveal your love in our world in his spirit, saying: Lord Jesus Christ; **hear us and bless us!***

Liturgist: We pray for those who give you hands by doing their best toward their brothers and sisters; for those who give you a mouth by speaking words of justice and peace for the broken and oppressed; for those who give your poverty the look of hope for your reign, revealing you simply by being your children, reflecting your beauty as did your only Son Jesus.

Lord Jesus Christ; **hear us and bless us!**

L: We hold up in prayer the lonely and hurting, the hungry and homeless, the sick and dispossessed, knowing that your heart has always been nearest those who are poor in spirit and least likely to be thought of as people touched by the hand of divinity.

Lord Jesus Christ; **hear us and bless us!**

L: As we remember how you came to live among us in the flesh, and as we celebrate that moment long ago which lives forever in the hearts of those who believe, and as we long for your fullness in our lives that we too might enflesh the goodness and love of Christ in our day, we ask that you would bless us, your church, to be food for the hungry and hope for those who are lost and alone—a living testament of Christ's faithfulness to you. May all who drink of your one spirit receive new life to give to those in our world who are thirsty for meaning and belonging.

Lord Jesus Christ; **hear us and bless us!**

L: Pour out your Spirit upon us, your people. Continue in our lives the mystery of Christmas. Let your Son become flesh in us, so that we may reveal you to our world all the days of our lives. Holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray. Cast out our sin and enter in. Be born in us today.

Lord Jesus Christ; **hear us and bless us!**

Celebrant: Reveal to us the salvation that you have prepared for us. Make us to walk in your paths of righteousness and peace, and fill us with joy, as we pray in Christ's name, even as he taught us, saying:

**“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 sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever. Amen.”**

CHORAL ANTHEM

“Still, Still, Still”

arr. Norman Luboff

Laura Currie Chancel Choir

-WE OFFER OUR GIFTS TO GOD-

OFFERTORY INVITATION

This evening's offering will be donated to Heifer Project International and Fisherman's Net.

Officiant: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Upon those who have lived in the shadow of deep darkness the light has shined. With the prophet's words, let us joyfully participate in sharing the life-giving work of God in our world today as share these offerings of our lives and our labors.

****DOXOLOGY, PRESENTATION, AND OFFERTORY PRAYER**

#95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God, above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Word, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Officiant: Thank you, God of Love, for the promise of this season. We are grateful for the generosity aroused in us by Christ's coming into the world. May these gifts represent a new spirit of joyous sharing among us, for the sake of all your children everywhere. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Celebrant: Out of the darkness of our world, we have seen a great light. The birth of the Christ Child calls us to something special. God comes to us now in this busy season to make all things new. God makes room for us, even when there is no room at the inn. Where we are too busy, God brings peace. Where we are lost, salvation. Where we are sad, joy. Where we are bitter, God gives us the courage to love again. Rejoice! Christ has come to us bringing all these gifts of God. Let us join with the whole church to eat and drink with him. May the bread we eat be to us the very bread of life. May the cup we share be God's wine of salvation. Let us celebrate Emmanuel – God with us – as we come to his table in faith. You are welcome here – all of you. It is he who invites you, and it is he who gives you life. So come as you are to the Table of the Lord.

LITURGY OF COMMUNION

Responses on page 15 in the front of the hymnal.

You will be instructed when to come forward to take the bread and cup.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty (almighty God), creator of heaven and earth.

You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth.
You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.
When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.
You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through your prophets.
You loved the world so much that you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to
be our Savior.

As the angels sang glory to you in the highest
and peace to your people on earth,
so with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem
and there found no room, so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem and
was despised and rejected.

As in the poverty of a stable Jesus was born,
so by the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

As your Word became flesh, born of woman, on that night long ago,
so, on the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

HYMN OF COMMUNION

"In The Bleak Midwinter"

#221

**1. In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.**

**2. Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.**

**3. Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.**

**4. What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.
Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (God), now and for ever.
Amen.

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ.
Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life that Christ gives.
The gifts of God for the people of God. Come for all things are ready.

The choir will come forward first, then the people will come forward and take a piece of bread and eat it, then take a cup from the tray, drink it, and place the cup in the basket of empties.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds always; through him who is Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

-WE SHARE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST-

PASSING THE LIGHT

(Tip your unlighted candle to receive the light)

A PRAYER AS THE CANDLES ARE LIGHTED -by Lisa Rubin

*Let us be still in the darkness of our sacred space,
And listen to the quiet around us.
For even in the quiet, there is the gentle being with others.
Let us feel the warmth of our community,
Knowing we are not alone.
For in the quiet shadow is the glow of life within all.
Let us know in the darkness the gift each candle bears,
A small flame, a diminutive light—Yet the wondrous gift to kindle another's
glow.*

*Let us be in awe at this moment as we each take up the flame
And the light envelopes this room,
As hope for peace and goodwill fill this night.*

COLLECT

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

**CAROL

"SILENT NIGHT"

#239

The carol will be played through once then the congregation will sing.

- 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, heav'nly 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."**

-WE GO INTO THE WORLD TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS-

BENEDICTION

Officiant: May Almighty God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor.

And the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

People: Amen! Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

****Indicates to rise if you are able**