

*Hymn	<i>Silent Night, Holy Night</i> (with candlelight)	UMH 239
*Blessing		
*Hymn	<i>Joy to the World</i>	UMH 246
*Benediction		
Postlude	<i>Toccata on "Adeste Fideles"</i>	arr. Hegarty

Serving in Worship:

Pastor: Rev. Hoyte Wilhelm
Organist: Marlene Dirksen
Choir Director and Handbell Choir Director: Gabriela Martinez
Readers: Joel Chermonte, John Vas, Alice Walsh
Greeters: Barb Andrews, Greg Lavelle, John & Char Vas, Judi Wagner
Usher: Beth Cruz
Video Production: John & Michelle Wolter, Phil Wolter

Join us for worship on Sundays at 10:30 am!

Sunday, December 26
First Sunday after Christmas Day
10:30 am
Sanctuary and Online

North Olmsted United Methodist Church

4600 Dover Center Road, North Olmsted, Ohio 44070
440-779-6634 + www.noumc.org



Christmas Eve Worship

December 24, 2021, 7 pm

Welcome

Prelude *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* arr. Dale Wood

Handbell Choir Introit *Schönster Herr Jesu* Mark Prater

Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Candles and Christ Candle

L: This night, this night is a night to remember. A night when home broke in on us. A night when we were not forgotten, alone, or abandoned. This night. This night is the night when here and there became one, when past and future combined in a breathless present. This is a night when we are home, in ourselves, in this family, in the God who loved us enough to walk beside us.

P: We gather in the night to proclaim the light. We shrug off despair and embrace hope. We set aside conflict and choose peace. We push away despair by claiming joy. We overcome hate by rising into love. Because this evening, even in the shadows of our doubts, we know that we are loved. That's what it means to be home.

L: We light these candles, hoping to become the light, hoping to radiate light by how we live. We light these candles to create a space called home in this place, in our place, in inner places. We light these candles to declare that unto us a Savior is born, who is Christ the Lord. Welcomed home by angels singing and shepherds kneeling. Welcomed home by those like us who have worshiped for thousands of years. Welcomed home again tonight, right here, right now, in us.

P: It's time to be home in hope, peace, joy, love, and light.

Special Music *Anthem for Christmas*
Musicians: Andy and Josh Walsh

Unison Prayer (Isaiah 9)

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 every day of our lives. Amen.

***Hymn** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (vv. 1-3, 6) UMH 234

Handbell Choir Anthem *Starry Night* arr. Brenda E. Austin

Choir Anthem *Bethlehem* Lloyd Larson

Reflection "Welcome Home" Hoyte Wilhelm

The Birth Luke 2:1-7 John Vas

Hymn *Away in a Manger* UMH 217

The Shepherds and The Angels Luke 2:8-14 Joel Chermonte

Hymn *Angels We Have Heard on High* (vv. 1-3) UMH 238

The Shepherds' Adoration Luke 2:15-20 Alice Walsh

Special Music *In This Very Room* Ron and Carol Harris
Vocalist: Terri Wilhelm

The Offering
Offertory *Carol of the Manger* arr. Dale Wood
***Doxology** UMH 94
***Prayer**

Hymn *O Little Town of Bethlehem* UMH 230

Scripture Readings John 8:12; Matthew 5:14-16