

***A RESPONSIVE PRAYER, *in unison*,**
 Holy God, in the midst of all of the Christmas celebrations, help us to remember to praise you. All that we are about to experience is such a small part. You give us everything we need and have blessed us with the greatest gift of all, Your Son. Rekindle in our hearts the ability to stand in awe of the Christ Child. Help us to be able to bow before you with the trust and innocence of a small child. Help us hold you close in our hearts. In the name of Jesus, we pray...AMEN.

***LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLES**

Please tip the unlit candle to receive the flame from your neighbor to avoid spilled wax. Moms and dads, please use discretion when allowing young children to hold lit candles.

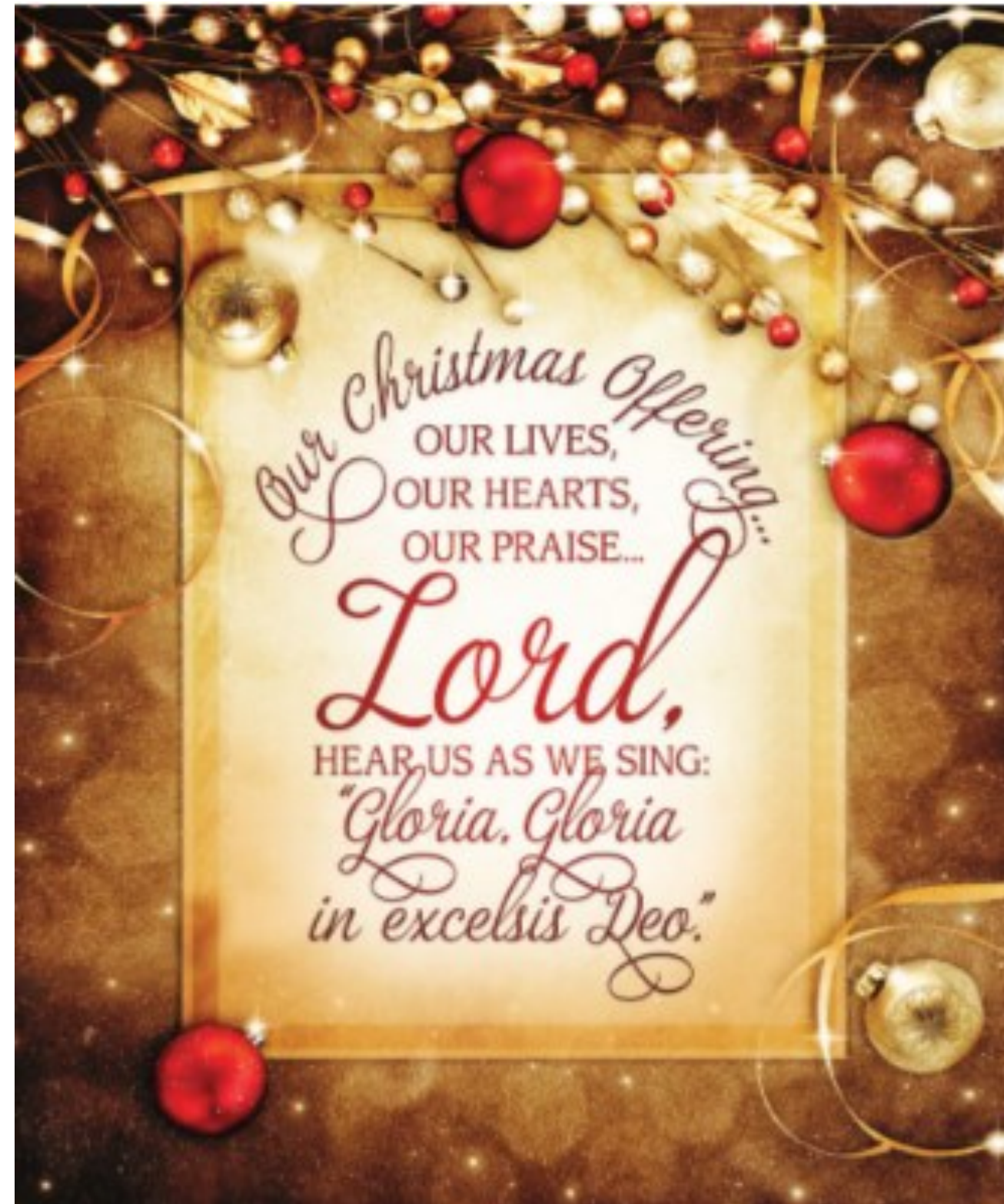
***CLOSING HYMN** *"Silent Night"* **#239 UMH**

***BENEDICTION**

***CLOSING HYMN** *"Joy to the World"* **#246 UMH
 VERSES 1-2**

POSTLUDE

Please join us now for our Christmas Eve Meal in the Fellowship Hall



**BLESSINGS EVERYONE! ~ LUVERNE UMC CHRISTMAS EVE
SERVICE ~ DECEMBER 24, 2024 ~ 5PM**

**Indicates to stand if you are able*

PRELUDE

Welcome to our Christmas Eve Service which serves to be a special time to welcome a tiny baby, born to bring us peace and joy and eternity. We invite you to use some quiet time in preparing for this service. Allow yourself to settle in, find that place of peace, listen to the voice of the baby boy born into the world to bring us life. Open your hearts this night, to receive the Christmas message.

OUR GATHERING

***PROCESSIONAL**

UNITED WE SING *“Born in Bethlehem”*

PRAISE TEAM SONG

***CALL TO WORSHIP, responsively,**

L: May the Lord be with you,

C: And also with you.

L: For you who are filled to the brim with happiness,

C: Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.

L: For you who are mourning the loss of family and friends,

C: Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.

L: For you who feel like you are tripping about in darkness,

C: Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.

L: For who rest in gratitude and contentment,

C: Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.

L: Fore you who feel the ache of loneliness,

C: Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.,

L: For you who are surrounded by unlikely yet beautiful companionship,

C: Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.

L: Come, let us worship the birth of our Savior!

C: Come, let us worship God who came to dwell among us! Amen!

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

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SPECIAL VIDEO

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Beloved, today we welcome the Christ Child, the fulfillment of our joy, as we proclaim with the prophet Isaiah ” *For a child has been born for us, a song given to us: authority rests upon his shoulders: and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*” (Isaiah 9:6).

Christ our joy has come near. Emmanuel, God with us, has come to dwell with us as a tiny baby. “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” (Isaiah 9:7)

We light this candle as a sign of Christ coming to dwell with us, to live in the neighborhood of vulnerable humanity as a vulnerable child. May the light of Christ warm our hearts and light our way as we share the joy of God’s salvation wherever we go.

(Light all five candles of the Advent wreath)

SPECIAL MUSIC *“All is Well”*

ANISSA AND FELICIA

OUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

#95 UMH

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Gracious God, we thank you for this season of wonder, of love. for our faith family and for your most precious gift of Jesus. We offer you our lives and these gifts: our hopes and our plans, our work and our play. May love and justice blossom from our gifts. Amen.

CHRISTMAS HOMILY

CHARLIE BROWN AND LINUS

SPECIAL MUSIC *“Do You Hear What I Hear”*

LORI OSEI-OFORI

CHRISTMAS PRAYERS

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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