

First United Methodist Church of Gilbert

Serving, Giving, Welcoming, Growing in the likeness of Christ

December 24, 2023 | 10:00 pm CHRISTMAS EVE

Stream, Attendance, Prayer Request and Comment online at <u>gilbertumc.org</u> Hearing-Assistive Devices, Large-Print Bulletins, Bibles and Hymnals are available from Usher

> 331 S. Cooper Rd. Gilbert, AZ 85233 • 480-892-9166 gilbertumc.org | facebook.com/FUMCofGilbert

Candlight Celebration!

Service at 10:00 pm

Pre-service	Music: "Candlelight Carol & Gesu	Bambino"			
Ringing of the Bell					
Welcome and Greeting Pastor Rick Casebolt and Pastor Adriana Hernandez					
Announcement: 9:00am only Dec. 31st; Office Closed Tuesday Dec. 26; Jan. 2					
Bringing in the Light of Christ					
Prelude "There's a Song in the Air"					
Lighting of t	he Advent Candles and Response	The Tremaine Family			
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" vs. 6 <i>#211</i>					
*Call to Worship					
Leader:	The night was dark.				
People:	A baby lay in a manger.				
Leader:	The night was still.				
People:	Angels sang to shepherds.				
Leader:	The night was expectant.				
People:	God's glory shone brightly.				
Leader:	On this night,				
All:	let us rejoice in the gift of love.				
*Opening Hy *Opening Pr		h" vs. 1-3 #238 Nate Pearce			

Loving God, this is a holy night. We come longing to hear your story of new life and hope. Speak your words of truth and power. May the gift of your love be born anew among us. Cast out our fears, that we may rejoice in your power and your goodness. Amen.

Prayer of Preparation

God of love, open our hearts to hear this familiar story with new hope. Speak your wisdom of love and peace. Let your grace flow over us, as new life is born. Amen.

The First Lesson Carol 1	Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19 "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" vs. 1, 2	Adriana #196
Meditation I		Rick
The Second Lesson	Isaiah 9:2, 6-7	Tina
Carol 2	"O Little Town of Bethlehem" vs. 1, 3	#230
Meditation II		Rick
The Third Lesson	Luke 1:26-35, 38	Adriana
Carol 3	"Mary , Did you Know?"	
Meditation III		Rick
The Fourth Lesson	Luke 2:8-16	Philip
Carol 4	"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" vs. 1, 3	#240
The Fifth Lesson	John 1:1-14	Adriana
Carol 5	"O Come, All Ye Faithful" vs. 1, 3, 6	#234
Meditation IV		Rick
Pastoral Prayer		Rick
Time of Offering		
	"A Christmas Carol"	Marty

	A Unristmas Carol	Marty
*Doxology	"Praise God, from whom all Blessings Flow"	#95

***Offering Prayer**

Holy God, we are grateful for the incredible gift born in a stable in Bethlehem. The love and joy birthed by Jesus has touched and transformed our lives. We bring our gifts to you this night. We bring our gifts of money to continue your mission of peace. We bring our hearts, as we adore you and long to follow Jesus. Amen.

Pastor Rick

The Lord's Prayer

Music during Communion

*Prayer after Communion

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

*Sharing the Light of Christ Rick "Silent Night, Holy Night" vs. 1-3 #239 As the flame is passed, please keep all lit candles upright. To light your candle, tilt it to receive the Light from your neighbor. Do not blow out your candle; please use the cup to extinguish it. Please place unlit, used candles and holders in containers as you exit.

*Christmas Blessing

Postlude

"Silent Night" (Reprise)

Marilyn

Thank you for joining our services today!

If you have any questions or comments please contact us at connection@gilbertumc.org

CLERGY: Pastor Rick Casebolt and Pastor Adriana Hernandez MUSIC DIRECTOR: Randy Van Der Pol ORGANIST: Marilyn Harter



"O, Holy Night"

Adriana