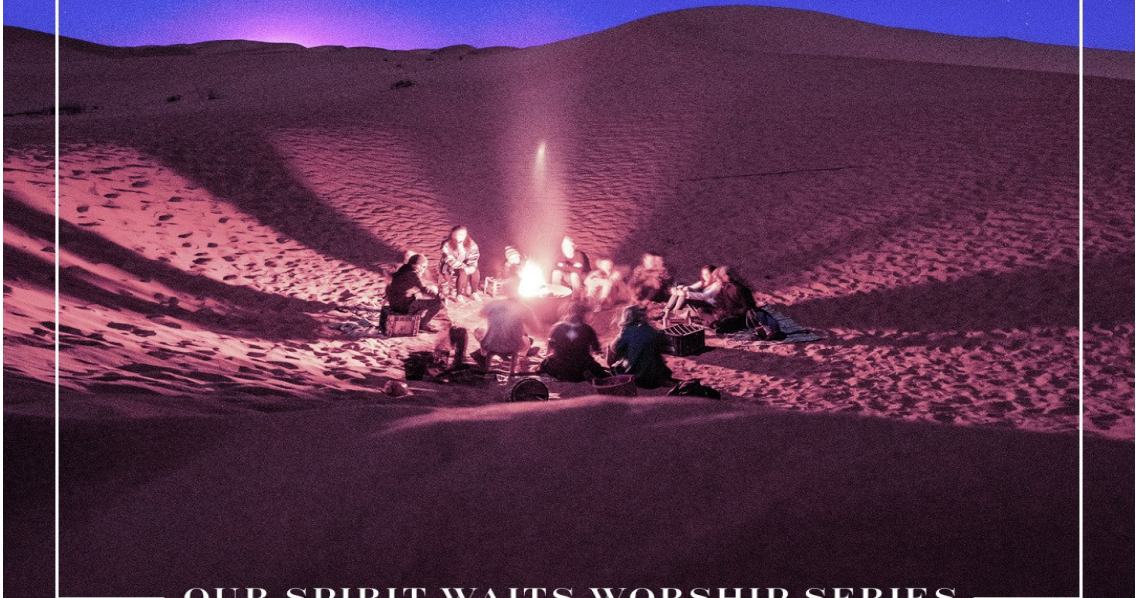


# OUR WONDROUS LIGHT



## OUR SPIRIT WAITS WORSHIP SERIES



## First United Methodist Church of Gilbert

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

December 24, 2023 | 6:00 pm

CHRISTMAS EVE

Stream, Attendance, Prayer Request and Comment online at [gilbertumc.org](http://gilbertumc.org)  
Hearing-Assistive Devices, Large-Print Bulletins, Bibles and Hymnals are available from Usher

331 S. Cooper Rd. Gilbert, AZ 85233 • 480-892-9166  
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# *Candlight Celebration!*

Service at 6:00 pm | See [gilbertumc.org](http://gilbertumc.org) for livestream

**Pre-service Music:** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Wesleyan Bell Choir

## **Ringing of the Bell**

**Welcome and Greeting** Pastor Rick and Pastor Adriana

**Announce:** 9:00am only Dec. 31st; Office Closed Mon. 25 Tue. Dec. 26; Jan. 1 & 2

## **Bringing in the Light of Christ**

**Prelude** "Echo Carol" Wesleyan Bell Choir

**Lighting of the Advent Candles and Response** The Butler Family

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" vs. 6 #211

## **\*Call to Worship**

Nate Pearce

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 Hymn**

"Angels We Have Heard On High" vs. 1-3

#238

## **\*Opening Prayer**

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.

<b>The First Lesson</b>	Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19	<a href="#">Adriana</a>
<b>Carol 1</b>	“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus” vs. 1, 2	<b>#196</b>
<b>Meditation I</b>		<a href="#">Rick</a>
<b>The Second Lesson</b>	Genesis 22:15-18	<a href="#">Nate</a>
<b>Carol 2</b>	“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” vs. 1, 3	<b>#211</b>
<b>The Third Lesson</b>	Isaiah 9:2, 6-7	<a href="#">Adriana</a>
<b>Carol 3</b>	“O Little Town of Bethlehem” vs. 1, 3	<b>#230</b>
<b>Meditation II</b>		<a href="#">Rick</a>
<b>The Fourth Lesson</b>	Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9	<a href="#">Nate</a>
<b>Carol 4</b>	“O Little Town of Bethlehem” vs. 2, 4	<b>#230</b>
<b>The Fifth Lesson</b>	Luke 1:26-35, 38	<a href="#">Adriana</a>
<b>Carol 5</b>	“To a Maid Engaged to Joseph” vs. 1, 3, 6	<b>#215</b>
<b>Meditation III</b>		<a href="#">Rick</a>
<b>The Sixth Lesson</b>	Luke 2:1-7	<a href="#">Nate</a>
<b>Carol 6</b>	“He Is Born” vs. 2, 3	<b>#228</b>
<b>The Seventh Lesson</b>	Luke 2:8-16	<a href="#">Adriana</a>
<b>Carol 7</b>	“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” vs. 1, 3	<b>#240</b>
<b>The Eighth Lesson</b>	Matthew 2:1-11	<a href="#">Nate</a>
<b>Carol 8</b>	“We Three Kings” vs. 1, 5	<b>#254</b>
<b>Meditation IV</b>		<a href="#">Rick</a>
<b>The Ninth Lesson</b>	John 1:1-14	<a href="#">Adriana</a>
<b>Anthem</b>	“Tell It On The Mountain”	<a href="#">Choir</a>
<b>Pastoral Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer</b>		<a href="#">Rick</a>

## Time of Offering

*"O Holy Night"*

Israel Mutach, Samantha Mutach, Divina Katching

### \*Doxology

"Praise God, from whom all Blessings Flow"

#95

### \*Offering Prayer

Nate

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.

### \*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

Rick

### 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](mailto:connection@gilbertumc.org)

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



## How to Give to First Gilbert

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