



Sunset United Church

December 24, 2019 –
Family Christmas Eve Service
Minister: Rev. Tricia Gerhard
Pianists: Shirley Hill



WE GATHER

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

Gathering Hymn: VU 60 O Come All Ye Faithful (vss 1,2,3)

Opening Prayer:

Holy Mystery,

 gifts have been given,

 a new year is just around the corner,

 and already the joy of Christmas

 is fading away.

Yet we want to hold on

 to the comfort

 of knowing that you are among us

 in the form of a tiny baby.

Bless us in this time of worship

 and remind us you are both fully present

 and much closer than we imagine.

Amen.

Hymn: VU #58 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Reading: How to Tell the Christmas Story ~ Frederick Buechner

Passing the Peace

WE LISTEN

Hymn: VU #38 Angels We Have Heard on High

Reading: Gomer (Hosea) ~ Frederick Buechner

Scripture: Hosea 11:1-4

Matthew 2:13-15

Hymn: VU #62 Once in Royal David's City

Reading: Jeremiah ~ Frederick Buechner

Scripture: Jeremiah 31: 15-17

Matthew 2:16-18

Hymn: VU #44 It Came Upon a Midnight Clear (verses 1,2,3)

Scripture: Psalm 22:1-7

Matthew 2:19-23

Responsive Reading: Star-Giving ~ Ann Weems

One: What I'd really like to give you for Christmas
 Is a Star...
 Brilliance in a package,

Left: Something you could keep in the pocket of
 your jeans
 Or in the pocket of your being.
Right: Something to take out in times of darkness
Left: Something that would never snuff out or
 tarnish,
Right: Something you could hold in your hand,
Left: Something for wonderment
Right: Something for pondering,
Left: Something that would remind you of
 What Christmas has always meant:
Right: God's Advent Light into the Darkness of this world.
One: But Stars are only God's for giving,
 And I must be content to give you words and
 wishes and
 Packages without Stars.
 But I can wish you Life
Left: As radiant as the Star
 That announced the Christ Child's coming,
Right: And as filled with awe as the Shepherds who stood
 Beneath its Light,
Left: And I can pass on to you the Love
 That has been given to me,
Right: Ignited countless times by others
 Who have knelt in Bethlehem's Light.
All: Perhaps, if you ask, God will give you a Star.

WE RESPOND

Offering Collection and Dedication

Hymn: VU 81 As With Gladness Men of Old (verse 3)

Prayer

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Reading: Behold, I Stand ~ Gerard Kelly

Hymn: VU #59 Joy to the World

Commissioning and Benediction

Amen

Postlude