

## **“Silent Night”**

**Silent night, holy night,  
all is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin  
mother and child.**

**Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night,  
shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born!**

**Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light;  
radiant beams from thy holy face  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

**Silent night, holy night,  
wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing,  
Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born!**



## **A “Silent Night” Service**

***Reclaiming Christmas Hope  
In a Time of Pandemic***

**December 24, 2020  
at 6:30 PM**

**Arnold Mills United Methodist Church  
690 Nate Whipple Hwy.  
Cumberland, RI 02864  
401-333-5203  
[www.amumc.org](http://www.amumc.org)**

<sup>1</sup> “Christmas Eve Prayer” by Jill Duffield at <https://pres-outlook.org/2019/12/christmas-eve-prayer-2/>

<sup>2</sup> “A Prayer for Christmas Eve” at <https://www.saltproject.org/progressive-christian-blog/2017/10/27/a-prayer-for-christmas-eve>

## THE LIGHTING OF CANDLES

*(Light your candle now)*

### OPENING PRAYER<sup>1</sup>

Gracious God, tonight is the night when heavenly hosts sing “Alleluia!” and shepherds hear first the good news of great joy for all people. Tonight, heaven and earth meet, the majestic and the lowly collide and all creation resounds with your glorious, grace-filled Word. Tonight, the pain and joy of birth begins, and we tremble at the beauty and vulnerability, the tenacity and fragility of nascent life emerging in our midst.

As we abide with the Holy Family, watching, waiting, listening and longing for the cries of infant Jesus to resound through the darkness of our world, overshadow us with your divine hope that spurs us to justice, your inexplicable peace that quells violence, your complete joy that shatters despair and your perfect love that casts out fear.

Tonight, we rest in the sure and certain knowledge that no matter where we are or what we face, no matter the state of our hearts or the anxieties on our minds, no matter the headlines or the undercurrents, Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God, is with us. Amen.

### FIRST SCRIPTURE READING – Luke 2:1-20

### SECOND SCRIPTURE READING – John 1:1-14

### CHRISTMAS PRAYER<sup>2</sup>

Loving God,  
For you animals prepared a bed.  
For you the heavens shone brightly and the stars  
clapped their hands.  
For you angels sang to help calm your crying.  
For you shepherds stood watch and marveled at how  
small you were.  
For you wise ones came running from the east,  
and when they saw you, they fell down on their knees  
because you were Almighty God and yet you were so  
vulnerable.

You were God and yet you had a soft spot on your head;  
God with Mary’s milk on your breath, wrapped up in swad-  
dling clothes;  
God, creator of everything, now born of flesh and blood to  
be with us –  
Emmanuel, God with us

Hope is ours.  
Peace is on the way.  
Sorrow has lost its grip.  
Love has flooded every heart.  
Emmanuel, God with us.

Light has come back into the world,  
And the darkness of disease and despair, hurt and hate  
shall not overcome it

Tonight you are with us  
And we will never be the same.  
We will be more tender.  
We will protect the vulnerable.  
We will stand watch.  
We will come running to soothe the pain,  
to befriend the lonely, to lift up the lowly,  
to live as your people, to walk with you in love.

We pledge and pray all of this in the name of Emmanuel,  
God with us. Amen.

**HYMN**                      “SILENT NIGHT”                      *(Lyrics on back page)*

**RINGING IN CHRISTMAS**                      *(Ring your bell now)*

### BLESSING

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,  
the devotion of Joseph,  
the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the determination of the magi,  
and the peace of the Christ child  
this night and always.