

God's Gift that Changed the World!



Rockport UMC

Worship & Nativity Experience

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WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“O Tannen baum”

German Carol

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Youth

Reader One: No matter what troubles overwhelm us today, Isaiah reminds us that in all of our preparation and passionate pursuit of God’s coming kingdom, we must not forget that God’s salvation has come and is coming. “With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation” (Isaiah 12:3). With joy you will remember that God’s salvation is already present among us.

People: Faced with the troubles and the suffering of the world, we choose to live in joyful presence to God and one another. We will not turn away from the pain and the hurt in our world, and we will not stop rejoicing in God, whose salvation fills us to overflowing that God’s love might flow through us and flood our troubled world with hope, peace, and joy.

Reader Two: We light this candle of joy as a sign of our commitment to be present to ourselves, our friends, our families, and our neighbors that in sharing our vulnerable lives we might share in the glorious joy of God’s salvation together.

[Light the first, second, & Third (pink/rose) candle of the Advent wreath].

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, God’s people, we are called by Him, let us follow the way prepared for us.

People: We will follow, oh Lord, we will answer the call.

Leader: Into Mary’s ordinary life the angel arrived, announcing something new, something that would change everything. Mary answered the call.

People: Into our lives, and into the world, God longs to come - bringing new life, bringing hope, bringing joy. Let every heart, starting with ours, prepare for this gift!

Leader: The world will be surprised at a manger, as the wonder of God surpasses what is expected.

People: God has blessed us with life, with faith, and with community.

Leader: In the gift of a tiny baby, we are reminded anew of the wonder of God’s ways.

ALL: Let us offer praise and glory to the one who calls us, the one who loves us without end, the one who gave us the gift like no other gift we could ever receive.

Amen.

* HYMN

“Here I am Lord”

UMH #593

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Youth

Leader: Amazing God, on this night so long ago, You gathered a group of unlikely outsiders—Mary, Joseph, shepherds tending their flock and doing their jobs, and others to be part of a great miracle: the birth of Jesus Christ, the Messiah. Today You are sending us to the manger. You gather this assortment of people to become a holy people, a Family of faith. Help us to receive Your renewing love as we praise You for offering us salvation in the name of Your precious Son, who taught us to pray,
People: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HYMN:

**"Blessed Assurance"
(this is my story, this is my song)**

**#369
vs 1 & 3**

God's Gift that Changed the World Part ONE

NARRATORS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Don

Pastoral Prayer

Offering Prayer

[Place your offering in the treasure chest at the back of the church, mail in your giving, or go to the GIVE tab on the website:rockportumc.org]

God's Gift that Changed the World Part TWO

NARRATORS

PRAYER

Youth

*** UNISON PRAYER:**

Tonight old dreams die and new dreams come to life. God's Promise will be fulfilled in the coming of Christ!

Hope gives way to joy and prayer to proclamation. Faith in God leads two people on a journey, not completely knowing what lies ahead. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace. God's mercy extends from generation to generation. God's salvation is offered in the gift of Christ. Amen

God's Gift that Changed the World Part THREE

NARRATORS & PRAYER LEADERS

*** HYMN:** "There's a Song in the Air" **UMH #249**

NARRATOR

SPECIAL MUSIC "Greensleeves" **Chip Davis**
Flute: Mickey Hopp Piano: Susan Shick

BLESSING OF THE MANGER Youth

God's Gift that Changed the World Part FOUR

NARRATORS

HYMN: "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" **UMH #236**
vs. 1, 3, & 6

PRAYER LEADERS & NARRATORS

CLOSING HYMN: "Joy to the World" **UMH #246**

BENEDICTION Youth

POSTLUDE "Joy to the World"

*** Please stand as you are able**

SERVING THE LORD AT ROCKPORT

Pastor
Lay Leader
Director of Christian Education/Youth
Music Director/Organist
Church Office Administrator/Bookkeeper
Sound/Video
Lector
Ushers

Rev. Don Kraps
Dan Newman
Kira Cimino Holchin
Susan Shick
Sara Chapman
Scott Holchin
Youth
Beverly Cavanah and Eileen Seppelt