

# Christmas Eve – Family Service

Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025 ~ 4:00 PM



**PORT  
EDWARDS  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH**

The Rev. Caleb McGregor, *Pastor*  
Leo T., *Storyteller*  
Jennifer & Dave M., *Greeters*  
Pat & Kathy Mc., *Ushers*  
Sue M., *Musician*

50% of tonight's offering will go to support  
The Family Center in Wisconsin Rapids.

## THOUGHTS FOR THE EVENING

"Let there be Christmas lights: light in the soul, light for others, and no hostilities.  
This is the beautiful light of Jesus." – *The Late Pope Francis*  
"A Christmas candle is a lovely thing: it makes no noise at all, but softly  
and slowly gives itself away that others may shine, too." – *Eva Logue*  
"Christmas is a necessity; there has to be at least one day of the year to remind  
us that we're here for something else besides ourselves." – *Eric Sevareid*

L – Liturgist / P – People / M – Minister / † – words are on the TVs / \* – stand in body or spirit  
UMH – *The United Methodist Hymnal*

**Please silence your mobile devices. Thank you!**

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(1) *The Body of Christ gathers to worship God!*

†WORDS OF WELCOME

(Galatians 4:4-5)

†P.E.U.M.C. – *A Home for All of God's People*

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(2) *We listen to what God is saying to us!*

## GATHERING PRAYER

The Introduction: *Come Gather 'Round . . . .*

†First Carol: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* UMH 196

The Angel Speaks to Mary

†Second Carol: *Make Way, Make Way* screen

The Angel Speaks to Joseph

†\**Lighting the Christ Candle*

†Third Carol: *What a Wonderful Child* screen

The Angels & the Shepherds

†\*Fourth Carol: *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* UMH 240

Our Gift to Jesus

†\*Fifth Carol: *The Little Drummer Boy* screen

God's Word / God's Light

†\*Sixth Carol:

*Silent Night*

screen

*(switch your electric candles ON during this hymn;  
keep them lit through the Revelation reading)*

†\*Hope of Eternal Life

Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-8

*(switch your candles OFF following this reading  
and before the next hymn)*

†\*Seventh Carol:

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

UMH 234

\*A HOLIDAY BLESSING FOR YOU

\*MARCH TO THE MANGER

*You are invited to make your way forward  
and place your "gift" (financial or otherwise) in the manger.*

*Please drop off your candles in the bin on your way out! Thank you!*

*You are invited to join us on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM!*

*Our services are live streamed on our YouTube channel.*

*Search for "Port Edwards United Methodist Church" @ youtube.com.*

*You may do so on facebook.com as well!*



## Sunday Services – 10:00 AM

December 28<sup>th</sup>

**First Sunday of Christmastide**

**Newborn Saints Sunday**

*(a celebration of those born  
in the past year)*

January 11<sup>th</sup>

*Wesley's Covenant Renewal*

*Packing of the Greens &*

*Packers -n- Potatoes*

*after the service*

January 4<sup>th</sup>

**Baptism of the Lord Sunday**

*Holy Communion Sunday*

*Reaffirm Our Baptismal Vows*

*Blessing of Our Homes*

January 18<sup>th</sup>

*Guest speaker*

## About Tonight's Service

**Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols** started in 1918 at King's College in Cambridge, England. During World War I, Eric Milner-White, dean of the college, was concerned that the distress of the "Great War" had hardened attitudes against religion.

Since the beginning, "Once in Royal David's City" has opened the service, followed by a bidding prayer inviting worshippers to 'go unto Bethlehem' in their imaginations and holding in prayer the many who are far from glad in their personal and shared suffering. The prayer ends by mentioning those who have passed from this mortal life; when this was first written, Milner-White had in mind all who were bereaved by the violence of war and the recent deaths of thousands of loved ones. The scripture readings have largely remained the same. They are the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is interspersed with the singing of hymns. The order and selection of hymns do vary from year to year. The service always ends with Charles Wesley's "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing."

The service, and its message, have a beautiful simplicity. It is a beloved tradition rooted in healing, because it was forged in the fires of war, grief, and suffering. Rather than leading with the holly-jolly, razzle-dazzle that can crush a bruised spirit, this service tenderly invites the worshipper into a holy stillness.

Like the very candles flickering throughout our darkened sanctuary, the hope and joy that headline much of the Christmas season shine brighter against the acknowledgement of brokenness, pain, and wait.