

A Very Dakotas Christmas 2025

Prelude **“Silent Night”** – performed by Watertown (SD) First United Methodist Church
Kids’ Bell Choir, Director – Marilyn Spurrell, Accompanist- Lynn Osthus
Musicians – Ellie Fordham, Macey Ward, Shiloh Valsvig, Eleanor McManus, Libby
Olerud, Teddy McManus, Violet Ford, Rylen Rosendahl, Kegan Kasperek
Helpers – Heidi Steffensen, Beth Schutt

Welcome Bishop Lanette Plambeck, Resident Bishop, Dakotas-Minnesota Episcopal Area
of the United Methodist Church

Lighting of Advent and Christ Candles

We light the candle of hope.

Rev. Bryce Blank & Meaghan Wharton, Valley City (ND) Epworth UMC

We light the candle of peace.

Abraham Perez, Sioux Falls (SD) Sunnycrest UMC / Renuevo

We light the candle of love.

Rev. Cindy & Duane Coates, Rapid City (SD) First UMC

We light the candle of joy.

Confirmation class, Groton (SD) UMC

We light the candle of Jesus, God with us who brings hope, peace, joy and love.

Rev. Joel & Kris Winckler, Mandan (ND) UMC

Call to Worship Rev. Kris Mutzenberger and Rev. Dan Bader, Conference Superintendents
Leader: Angels proclaim.

People: Good News! Great joy!

Leader: Don’t be afraid.

People: Good News! Great joy!

Leader: For all people.

People: Good News! Great joy!

Leader: In the city of David.

People: Good News! Great joy!

Leader: Christ the Savior is born.

People: Good News! Great joy!

Song **“Away in a Manger”** – performed by Jen Bragg and Crystal Whitney, violinist Dr. Beth
Neitzert, accompanied by Jean Larson, all from Huron (SD) Riverview UMC

Away in a manger	The cattle are lowing	Be near me, Lord Jesus
No crib for a bed	The poor baby awakes	I ask Thee to stay
The little Lord Jesus	But little Lord Jesus	Close by me forever
Laid down His sweet head	No crying He makes	And love me I pray
The stars in the heavens	I love Thee, Lord Jesus	Bless all the dear children
Looked down where He lay	Look down from the sky	In Thy tender care
The little Lord Jesus	And stay by my cradle	And fit us for heaven
Asleep on the hay	Til morning is nigh	To live with Thee there

Prayer (adapted from BOW 276)

Conference Superintendent Dan Bader

Gracious God, you have brought us again to this glad season when we celebrate the good news of the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord with great joy. Grant that his Spirit may be born anew in our hearts today. Open our ears to hear again the angelic chorus of old. Open our lips that we may sing with uplifted hearts. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and goodwill toward all; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Children's Story "Birth of the Chosen One – A First Nations Retelling of the Christmas Story"

By Terry Wildman, Illustrated by Hannah & Holly Buchannan

Read by Rev. Susan Jennys, Chester (SD) and Colton (SD) UMCs

Scripture

Luke 2:1-20 CEB

Sermon

Rev. Brandon Vetter, Conference Superintendent

Offertory & Special Music "I Wonder as I Wander" performed by Isaac Johnson,

Mary Marion, accompanist Aberdeen (SD) North Highland UMC

Prayer of Intercession (BOW 279)

Rev. Kris Mutzenberger, Conference Superintendent

Holy God, heaven and earth are met this day in the newborn Child, Savior of the world. We celebrate his birth; for in him you come to be close to us, that we might be close to you. Especially, we give thanks for the birth, life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and all he means to us... For prospects of peace in the world... for confidence in your almighty love... for those who generously give... for those who graciously receive... for the Church's nurturing us in the faith. God of all mercy as you have come in Jesus Christ to be our guest, inspire our hearts to a hospitality that welcomes all your children in his name. Especially we pray for those who have not heard your good news... for the sick and suffering... for those who know no laughter, only tears... for those who govern and rule... for those enslaved by tyranny... for prisoners of addiction or abuse... for the church as a refuge for the needy... all this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Song "Light of the World (Sing Hallelujah)" Minot (ND) Vincent UMC Praise Band

Light of the world, treasure of Heaven

Brilliant like the stars, in the wintery sky

Joy of the Father, reach through the darkness

Shine across the earth, send the shadows to flight

Light of the world, crown in a manger

Born for the Cross, to suffer, to save

High King of Heaven, death is the poorer

We are the richer, by the price that He has paid.

Light of the world, from the beginning

The tragedies of time, were no match for Your love

From great heights of glory, You saw my story

God, You entered in, and became one of us

Sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah

Sing hallelujah for the things He has done

Come and adore Him, bow down before Him

Sing hallelujah to the light of the world (repeat)

Sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah

Sing hallelujah for the things He has done

Come and adore Him, bow down before Him

Sing hallelujah to the light of the world

Light of the world, soon will be coming

With fire in His eyes, He will ransom His own

Through clouds He will lead us,

straight into glory
And there He shall reign, forevermore
Oh, forevermore

Blessing and Sending Forth

Bishop Lanette Plambeck

Postlude

"Sweet Little Jesus Boy"

Performed by Grand Forks (ND) Zion UMC choir: David Perry, Director; Marjorie Myrold, Accompanist; Ken Sherwood, Billie Keller, Pastor Clay Lundberg, Wayne Seames, Deb Glennon, Cathy Perry, Kellie Burgess, Cynthia Shabb, Connie Sherwood, Mark Flint, Tim Carlson, John Shabb, Gail Sherwood, Janet Seames, Jane LeDuc