

Cedar Falls Mennonite Church & First Presbyterian Church, Cedar Falls
Christmas Eve 2025 ~ Lessons and Carols ~ The Road to Bethlehem
 4:30 pm In-person and Facebook

Welcome		Pastor Julie
Prelude		Phil Batchelder, organ
Call to Worship		Cyd Grafft
One: Walking toward Bethlehem		
ALL: Listening every step of the way		
One: For the sound of our name,		
ALL: For the announcement that we have found favor with God		
One: Walking toward Bethlehem		
ALL: Watching every step of the way		
One: For a new star in the sky		
ALL: For guidance in our daily lives.		
One: Walking toward Bethlehem		
ALL: Sensing we are not alone		
One: Angels are all around us		
ALL: The prayers of saints surround us.		
One: Walking toward Bethlehem		
ALL: Hoping we shall find a baby in a manger:		
One: A simple sign that God loves us still		
ALL: And reason enough to sing God's praise.		
Hymn 121	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	<i>verses 1,2</i>
Lighting the Candle of the Prophets ~ Isaiah 9:2		Sandy Jensen
And You Will Name Him Jesus ~ Luke 1:26-32		Grant Tracey
Special Music	<i>Ave Maria</i> – Franz Schubert	Brad Jensen, flugelhorn Connie Herbon, piano
Lighting the Candle of Mary & Joseph		Sandy Jensen
And She Laid Him in a Manger ~ Luke 2:1-7		Paul Braley
Hymn 115	<i>Away in a Manger</i>	<i>verses 1-2</i>
Lighting the Candle of the Shepherds		Connie Herbon
I Am Bringing You Good News of Great Joy ~ Luke 2:8-12		Scott Connolly
Special Music	<i>What is this Lovely Fragrance</i>	Phil Batchelder, organ
Glory to God in the Highest Heaven – Luke 2:14-15		Eric Braley

Hymn 113	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	all verses
Invitation to Confession		Pastor Julie
Confession		Pastor Julie
Loving Christ, When the shepherds heard that you were born, they dropped their things and ran. They trusted the angels' invitation. They believed that your love existed for them. We wish that we were more like that. Instead, somewhere between the angels' song and the manger, we tend to lose our way. We doubt ourselves. We doubt the invitation. We doubt that love could know our names. Remind us that your love is personal and specific. Remind us that the good news of this day is for us. With hope we sing, we pray, and we run. Amen.		
Assurance of Grace		Pastor Julie
Lighting the Candle of the Wise Ones		Sue Eastman
They Were Overwhelmed with Joy ~ Matthew 2:1-2, 5b, 9b – 10		Grant Tracey
Hymn 134	<i>Joy to the World</i>	all verses
They Saw the Child with Mary ~ Matthew 2:11		Hayden Witaker
Hymn 151	<i>We Three Kings of Orient Are</i>	verses 1, 5
Offering Invitation and Prayer of Dedication		Pastor Julie
The Prince of Peace ~ Isaiah 9:6		Eric Braley
Lighting the Christ Candle		Pastor Julie
Hymn 122	<i>Silent Night, Holy Night</i>	all verses
A word about sharing the light and changing the light		Pastor Julie
Blessing		Pastor Julie
Passing the Peace		
Postlude		