



**SPRUCE PINE UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH  
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF  
WORSHIP**

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
7:30 PM

## Welcome and Announcements

**Prelude** (Please use this time to focus your whole self on worshipping God)

**^Hymn of Praise** "O Come All Ye Faithful" UMH 234

### **^Opening Prayer**

Let us pray together:

**Living God,**

**on this holy night we gather -**

**to stand with the shepherds, amazed at your glory;**

**to sing with the angels, rejoicing in your work;**

**to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise;**

**to sit with Mary, cradling your love.**

**May the good news of this night inspire us**

**to tell the world of our great joy:**

**for to us is born a Savior,**

**the Messiah, the Lord.**

**Glory and praise to you forever! Amen.**

### **^The Passing of the Peace**

"The Peace of Christ be with you."

**"And also with you."**

*(You are invited to greet your neighbors and wish them the peace of Christ.)*

**Old Testament Reading** **Psalm 96** OT 528

### **Carols-Sing**

*(Worshippers are invited to call out the name and number of a Christmas hymn they would like to sing: the hymns can be found from #216 - #255 in the red United Methodist Hymnal)*

**^Gospel Reading** **Luke 2: 1-20** NT 55

**Sermon** **"Mission: Possible"** REV. JEREMY TROXLER

### **Special Music**

**^The Great Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer** UMH 15-16

### **Prayer of Confession and Invitation**

### **Holy Communion**

*(Holy Communion is a sacred gift of God's presence and love expressed to us in Christ. As United Methodists we practice an open table: all are invited and welcome to participate. Join the line to receive in your hand a piece of the bread, the body of Christ, and to them dip the piece of bread into the chalice, the blood of Christ: you may then eat it in a spirit of gratitude and reverence, and either kneel at the altar in prayer or return to your seat. Through Holy Communion Christians believe that our faith is being fed, as we receive Christ's life and spirit into our bodies.)*

## Prayers After Communion

### ^Passing of the Light

### ^Hymn

“Silent Night”

UMH 239

### ^Benediction

*(Following the benediction, you are asked to please depart the sanctuary in silence, to allow others the opportunity to stay and pray: you are welcome to greet each other in the welcome center just outside the sanctuary.)*

**\*\* Thank you for worshipping with us: we hope you might join us again in worship this Sunday at 11AM! \*\***

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## WELCOME TO SPRUCE PINE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH!

We are so grateful that you could join us for this special time of worship as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ! We pray that you would be blessed as we sing, pray, listen, and worship God together.

We would especially like to welcome you if you might be new to our church, or if you might be new to this whole “church” thing altogether. We hope you won’t be nervous at all being with us: it doesn’t matter who you are, what you’ve done, what you’re wearing, what you believe, or what you don’t believe – you are welcome here. Please know that you are among friends: the rest of us are just as “messed up” as you are ☺, and we hope you feel at home.

The folks here at Spruce Pine UMC are a people who have been touched by the grace of God in Jesus the Christ. Through Christ our lives have been embraced by the God who made us for a purpose, who loved us long before we ever knew it, who has forgiven us for our sins, who has overcome death with abundant life, who is re-making us as a people of faith, hope, love, peace, and joy, and who is mending our broken world through broken people such as us. In short, we believe that Jesus saves. So by the grace of God we are learning how to love God, how to love our neighbors, and how to love ourselves as he does. Lord knows, we still have a long ways to go before we get there, but we have learned there is nothing in life so wonderful as following Jesus in his great adventure in grace.

We invite you to join us on that journey. If you do, you’ll find a people who learn together, who laugh together, who love God and neighbor together: and who will love you together.

We hope you have a joyful Christmas!

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Jeremy Troxler