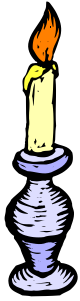


INSTRUCTIONS FOR CANDLES



During the “**THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES,**” those persons nearest the center aisle will have their candles lit by the assistants. From there the lighting will proceed across the pew. In every case, the person whose candle is to be lit will dip their candle toward the lit candle of the person next to them. Following the benediction, the candles will be extinguished and collected at the door.



**Christmas Eve 2023
Candlelight Service**

FOSTER TUKWILA PRESBYTERIAN

Foster Tukwila Presbyterian

Candlelight Service – 8:30 pm
Christmas Eve 2023

**“But when the time had fully come,
God sent his Son, born of a woman...”**

Galatians 4:4

A Service of Christmas Meditations

WELCOME/OPENING PRAYER

* HYMN “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

FIRST CANDLE: Hope

“In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.’”

Matthew 2:1-2

* HYMN “The First Noel”

SECOND CANDLE: Love

“When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

*‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people, Israel.’”*

Matthew 2:3-6

* HYMN “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

THIRD CANDLE: Joy

“Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’”

Matthew 2:7, 8

* HYMN “Joy to the World”

FOURTH CANDLE: Peace

“When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary, his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”

Matthew 2:9-11

* HYMN “What Child Is This?”

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

HOMILY

Pastor Aaron McGruder

* HYMN “In Christ Alone”

“And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.”

Matthew 2:12

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

* HYMN “Silent Night”

* BENEDICTION

* Congregation Standing