



Candles & Carols

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Tonight at 6 p.m. • Chapel



December 24, 2017

University Church of Christ exists by the grace of God to be a loving fellowship praising God by living and telling the good news of Jesus.

WORSHIP

In Christ Alone

**Welcome/Family News/
Congregational Prayer**

Bradley Steele

1012 *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

377 *He Still Came*

Communion

Hal Howell

Bread

998 *What Child Is This?*

Cup

998 *What Child Is This?*

Offering

Children's Church

Emmanuel

John 1:1-14

Chris Willerton

O Holy Night!

Bicky Tolar

Glorious Exchanger: John's Word Made Flesh

Brent Isbell

997 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Shout to the North

Worship Leader

Eric Lemmons

If you would like to have someone pray with you, or for you, please make your way to Room 101 at the end of service where there are UCC members waiting just for you.

Our Sunday morning service is broadcast live at www.uccabilene.org.

REFLECTIONS

Brent Isbell, Preaching Minister

brent@uccabilene.org

Merry Christmas Eve! Welcome to University Church! If you are visiting today, thank you for joining us. Some of us are away today, and others of us have family in town for Christmas. If you are one of our guests, please fill out a **Connections Card** (found in the seats). Share information, ask for prayers, or perhaps let us know you want to be a UCC member. Drop your card in the offering plate or go online to uccabilene.org/card.

Today we finish our series called **Wait for It: A Gospel Journey Through Advent**. Each Sunday we have been looking at the first arrival (or advent) of Jesus through the eyes of the four Gospels, while also keeping an eye toward his future (second) coming. This Christmas Eve morning, we light the fourth (Peace) candle of Advent by going back to, literally, *In the beginning!* Message: **Glorious Exchanger: John's Word Made Flesh**. Our worship leader today is **Eric Lemmons**.

Candles and Carols is tonight at 6 p.m. We are beginning a new tradition at UCC this evening, hosting a simple candlelight Christmas Eve service in our Chapel. Several of our brothers and sisters will lead us in singing carols, reading Scripture, sharing the Lord's Supper, and lighting the final candles of the season together. Bring your family and friends and join us for a special reminder of what this season is truly about.

Adult Education Minute: Today and next Sunday-December 31-there will be **no 9 a.m. classes**. We are only meeting for 10 a.m. worship these two Sundays. Classes resume on Sunday, January 7.

Mid-Week Classes. This Wednesday-**December 27**-we will have **no Wednesday classes or activities**. A new mid-week Family Room class series begins on Wednesday, January 3.

Calendar Notes:

- **UCC Office Closed** - December 25-26; January 1
- **Candles and Carols Service** - Tonight, 6 p.m., Chapel
- **No Wednesday PM classes or activities** - Wednesday, Dec. 27
- **No 9 a.m. classes/10 a.m. worship only** - Sunday, Dec. 31
- **Normal times/schedules resume** - January 3 and January 7

CLASS TIMES:

Sunday - 9 a.m.
Wednesday - 7 p.m.

WORSHIP TIMES:

Sunday - 10 a.m., 5 p.m.
Sanctuary - 8 p.m.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

733 E. N. 16th Street
Abilene, TX 79601

PHONE: (325) 673-6497
www.uccabilene.org

NURSERY FACILITIES

For your convenience, nursery facilities are available during worship in the Early Childhood Center.

ATTENDANCE:

Worship -	345	Northern Oaks -	30
Bilingual -	56	Chisholm Place -	9
Coronado -	64	Silver Springs -	N/A

OFFERING:

December 17 \$34,592.54

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Jennifer Welch, Children's Minister
jenniferw@uccabilene.org

A Song Was Heard At Christmas

A song was heard at Christmas
To wake the midnight sky;
A Saviour's birth, and peace on earth,
And praise to God on high.

The angels sang at Christmas
With all the hosts above,
And still we sing the newborn King
His glory and his love.

The Giving Tree: Please take items from the tree this week and give them to someone you would like to bless. The tree will be taken down in January.

TRANSITIONS

Joey Roberts, Communications Minister
joey@uccabilene.org

Small Groups: We are done with small groups until January 7. We will be changing the groups at the end of January, so be on the lookout for the new groups soon as well. We will need hosts for much of the spring semester, so please sign up to host (especially next month).

Check out **Facebook** for more activities and info, including sign-ups for summer small groups.

GATHERINGS

Bradley Steele, Young Adults Minister
bradley@uccabilene.org

Tonight we will not meet for small group. Join us for *Candles and Carols* in the Chapel at 6 p.m.

We will not have **Wednesday** activities this week.

If you haven't already, make sure to sign up for our Winter Retreat at Camp Bandina on January 19-21. Contact Bradley for more info.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Jason Craddock, Youth Minister
jason.craddock@uccabilene.org

No Activity Tonight: We will not have a youth activity tonight as to encourage all to attend the Christmas Eve Service in the Chapel at 6 p.m.

Huddles On Pause Until January: Our small-group Huddles will take a brief hiatus during the holidays and resume on Jan. 3 with a combined Huddle activity in the Youth Center. We will resume Huddles in their normal locations on Wednesday, Jan. 10.

Winterfest: Winterfest paperwork is on the Youth Center desk and has been emailed as well. Winterfest is a *huge* youth conference that happens in January each year with thousands of teens in attendance. We will leave on Friday afternoon (1/12) and drive straight to the Arlington Convention Center. We will stay in a hotel on Friday and Saturday night. The cost of the conference, which includes transportation, hotel and conference registration is \$60, so save your Christmas money. The hard deadline for payment is Sunday, Jan. 7.

Dates Ahead:

- **January 2** - BLAST at 9 a.m.
- **January 3** - Huddles Resume
- **January 12-14** - Winterfest

CANDLES AND CAROLS

Candles and Carols: Join us **tonight, Dec. 24** in the Chapel from 6-7 p.m. as we light the final candles of the Advent season. We will sing carols, read Scripture, share Communion and more as we celebrate the Messiah.

Make sure to invite your friends, neighbors and family to this hour-long special shared experience. You don't want to miss this chance to worship with your church family at this Christmas Eve service.

PRAYER LIST

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - Dec. 24-Jan. 21

DEC. 24	10 a.m. - Worship, Brent Isbell - speaker, Eric Lemmons - worship leader 6 p.m. - Candles and Carols, Chapel
DEC. 25-26	Office Closed
DEC. 27	No Activities this Week
DEC. 31	10 a.m. - Worship, Jason Craddock - speaker, Steve Austin - worship leader
JAN. 1	Office Closed
JAN. 3	7 p.m. - Bible Classes
JAN. 7	8:30 a.m. - Coffee, Juice and Donuts, MAC 9 a.m. - Bible Classes 10 a.m. - Worship, Brent Isbell - speaker, Mark Tate - worship leader 5 p.m. Chapel Service - Bradley Steele - speaker, Gene Linder - song leader 8 p.m. - Sanctuary Worship Service, Chapel
JAN. 10	7 p.m. - Bible Classes
JAN. 14	8:30 a.m. - Coffee, Juice and Donuts, MAC 9 a.m. - Bible Classes 10 a.m. - Worship, Brent Isbell - speaker, TBD - worship leader No 5 p.m. Chapel Service - Fellowship Sunday 8 p.m. - Sanctuary Worship Service, Chapel
JAN. 17	7 p.m. - Bible Classes
JAN. 21	8:30 a.m. - Coffee, Juice and Donuts, MAC 9 a.m. - Bible Classes 10 a.m. - Worship, Brent Isbell - speaker, TBD - worship leader 5 p.m. Chapel Service - Jason Craddock - speaker, Eric Lemmons - song leader 8 p.m. - Sanctuary Worship Service, Chapel

UCC ELDERS

Steve Austin
Richard Cox
Mark Hamilton
Eddie Mahanay
Paul Rotenberry
Kris Southward, chair
Mark Tate
James Thompson
Gustavo Villanueva

Submit your bulletin items to Joey Roberts before noon on Wednesday.