

**Crawford Memorial United Methodist Church**

**Christmas Eve 9pm, December 24, 2025**

*† Please rise in body or in spirit.*

**Prelude** .....Occasional Brass & Strings, String Quartet

**Welcome** .....Rev. Anne Robertson

**Introit**..... Rejoice, *Eugene Butler*.....Chancel Choir

† **Call to Worship** ..... Ephraim the Syrian, c. 306-373.....Neil Cudmore

The feast day of your birth resembles you, Jesus, because it brings joy to all humanity.

**Old people and infants alike enjoy your day. Your day is celebrated from generation to generation.**

Kings and emperors may pass away, and the festivals to commemorate them soon lapse.  
But your festival will be remembered till the end of time.

**Your day is a means and a pledge of peace. At your birth heaven and earth were reconciled.**

Since you came from heaven to earth on that day, you forgave our sins and wiped away our guilt.

**You gave us so many gifts on your birthday:**

A treasure chest of spiritual medicines for the sick;

**Spiritual light for those that are blind;**

The cup of salvation for the thirsty;

**The bread of life for the hungry.**

In the winter when trees are bare,

**you give us the most succulent spiritual fruit.**

In the frost when the earth is barren,

**you bring new hope to our souls.**

In December when seeds are hidden in the soil,

**the staff of life springs forth from the virgin womb.**

† **Hymn**..... O Come, All Ye Faithful .....#234 (v1-3, 6)

**PROMISE**

**Lesson 1:** Isaiah 11:1-3a, 4a, 6-9 .....Neil Cudmore

**Hymn:** O Little Town of Bethlehem #230, (v1 & 4)

**Lesson 2:** Luke 1:26-35, 38.....Rev. Anne Robertson

**Hymn:** Angels We Have Heard on High #238, (v1 & 4)

**NATIVITY**

**Lesson 3:** Luke 2:1, 3-7 .....Neil Cudmore

**Hymn:** Away in a Manger #217, (v1 & 3)

**Prayer**..... *Bernard of Clairvaux, 1090-1153*

**Let your goodness, O God, appear to us, that we, made in your image, conform ourselves to it. In our own strength we cannot imitate your majesty, power, and**

wonder; nor is it fitting for us to try. But your mercy reaches from the heavens, through the clouds, to the earth below. You have come to us as a small child, but you have brought us the greatest of all gifts, the gift of eternal love. Caress us with your tiny hands, embrace us with your tiny arms, and pierce our hearts with your soft, sweet cries. Amen.

**Anthem #1** ..... Ecce Novum, *Ola Gjeilo*..... Chancel Choir + Strings

**Ecce Novum, by Ola Gjeilo**

***Translation:***

Ecce, novum gaudium  
Ecce, novum mirum  
Virgo parit filium  
Quae non novit virum  
Sed ut pirus prium  
Gleba fert papyrus  
Florens lilium  
Ecce, quod natura  
Mutat sua iura  
Virgo parit pura  
Dei filium, Amen

Behold, a new joy,  
Behold, a new wonder!  
A Virgin, who knew not a man,  
Bears a son.  
She knew not a man,  
but as the pear-tree bears the pear,  
The flourishing papyrus brings  
The lily from the soil.  
See how nature Changes her laws!  
A pure virgin bears  
The son of God., Amen

**VISITATION**

**Lesson 4:** Luke 2:8-16 .....Rev. Anne Robertson

**Hymn:** While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks #236 (v1, 3, 6)

**Lesson 5:** Matthew 2:1-12 .....Neil Cudmore

**Hymn:** We Three Kings #254, (v1, 5)

**LIGHT**

**Lesson 6:** John 1:1-14.....Lighting the Christ Candle .....Jeffrey Lawson

**Anthem #2** .....O Holy Night..... Neil Cudmore & Craig Parker

**Passing of the candlelight**.....Hymn: Silent Night #239/insert

**Proclamation & extinguishing of candles** .....Hymn: Joy to the World #246

**Benediction** .....Rev. Anne Robertson

**Postlude** .....Occasional Brass & Strings, String Quartet

*Please remain seated for the postlude.*

**Musicians:** Olga Kradenova (violin), Yumi Okada (violin),  
Jing-Huey Wei (viola), and Ming-hui Lin (cello)

**The poinsettias decorating our altar, loft, and chancel  
were given this year by:**

<b>Given by:</b>	<b>In Memory of:</b>
Kimberly & Jay Burke.....	Our Parents
Adjoa Acquah-Harrison .....	Our Crawford members in heaven this year
Barb Siftar.....	Dotti and Bob Siftar
Pam Reeve .....	Lt. Col. & Mrs. I C Andersen, Jr. Pete & Ruth Reve Rick, Kate, & Peter Reeve
Stacey Hilliard .....	Bryan Hilliard
Janet Herrmann .....	Laurie Herrmann Couallier and Christophe Couallier
Margaret L Moynihan .....	William and Fannie Van Zuiden
Barbara Hermann .....	Ruth & Winslow Blake
Cathy Carr.....	Lois & John Carr
Audrey & Tom Killion .....	Our Parents
Karen & Rick Murphy .....	Barbara Murphy
Susan & Allan Anderson .....	Herschel & Edna Anderson and Buford & Evelyn Muller
Bernadette.....	All the Crawford family who passed this year
Karen & Larry Beals .....	Doug & Betty Beals and Craig & Mary Sibley
Beverly & Ed Hammond .....	Our mothers: Virginia Janson and Millicent Hammond

<b>Given by:</b>	<b>In Celebration of:</b>
Kate & Larry Frisoli .....	Our family
Stacey Hilliard .....	Our sons: Duncan & Owen Our moms: Retha Clark & Barbara Hilliard
Barb Siftar.....	My wonderful family
Susan & Allan Anderson .....	Our Crawford Family
Sue & Steve Powers .....	Our grandchildren
Keiko & John Weaver .....	Our Children

**Crawford Memorial United Methodist Church**

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