

CHRISTMAS EVE

6:00 P.M.

December 24, 2023

Greeting

Prelude - Away in a Manger - Traditional

Call to Worship

On this night for anyone who has walked in darkness, a new light has dawned!

O come, let us adore him!

On this night for anyone who has ever felt forgotten, a new light has dawned!

O come, let us adore him!

On this night for anyone whose patience has been put to the test, a new light has dawned!

O come, let us adore him!

On this night for anyone in search of the way, the truth, and the life, a new light has dawned!

O come, let us adore him!

(Please stand)

Carol - O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem. Come and behold him, born the King of angels. **Refrain.**

2. True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal, lo, he shuns not the virgin's womb; Son of the Father, begotten not created; **Refrain.**

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest; **Refrain.**

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to thee be all glory given. Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; **Refrain.**

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Christmas Invocation

Shout for joy on this most holy night. Rejoice! For Light has come into the world. The mountains sing, the seas resound to the praise of your name. Salvation once promised is here on earth. The angels' song rings in the air, a child has been born. Hallelujah! The Savior of the world is here. Amen and Amen.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

(Sing: *Love came down at Christmas, love, all lovely, love divine; Love was born at Christmas, star and angels gave the sign.*)

For anyone who has walked in darkness, a new light has dawned!

O come, let us adore him!

For anyone who has ever felt forgotten, a new light has dawned!

O come, let us adore him!

For anyone whose patience has been put to the test, a new light has dawned!

O come, let us adore him!

For anyone in search of the way, the truth, and the life, a new day has dawned!

O come, let us adore him!

(Sing: *Love came down at Christmas, love, all lovely, love divine; Love was born at Christmas, star and angels gave the sign.*)

Scripture - Luke 2:1-5

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

(Seated) ***Carol - Away in a Manger***

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
2. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray; bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Scripture - Luke 2:6-7

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message

(Seated) ***Carol - He Is Born***

1. He is born, the holy Child, play the oboe and bagpipes merrily! He is born, the holy Child, sing we all of the Savior mild. Thru long ages of the past, prophets have foretold his coming; thru long ages of the past, now the time has come at last!
2. He is born, the holy Child, play the oboe and bagpipes merrily! He is born, the holy Child, sing we all of the Savior mild. O how lovely, O how pure is this perfect child of heaven; O how lovely, O how pure, gracious gift to human kind!
3. He is born, the holy Child, play the oboe and bagpipes merrily! He is born, the holy Child, sing we all of the Savior mild. Jesus, Lord of all the world, coming as a child among us, Jesus, Lord of all the world grant to us thy heavenly peace. He is born, the holy Child, play the oboe and bagpipes merrily! He is born, the holy Child, sing we all of the Savior mild.

Scripture - Luke 2:8-14

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

(Seated) ***Carol - Angels We Have Heard on High***

1. Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains. Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
2. Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Scripture - Luke 2:15-16

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

(Seated) ***Carol - Go, Tell It on the Mountain***

Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

1. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold throughout the heavens there shown a holy light. ***Refrain.***
2. The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth, rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior's birth. ***Refrain.***
3. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. ***Refrain.***

Offertory - What Child Is This? - Johnson

(Please stand) ***Doxology*** (Tune #229, Infant Holy, Infant Lowly)

Glory be to God the Father; Glory be to God the Son, Glory to the Holy Spirit, Glory to the three in one. Here we offer to you gladly, all the gifts that you impart;

As we glory in your presence, giving from a grateful heart.

Dedication

Scripture - Luke 2:17-20

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Lighting of the Candles

(As the light is brought to your row, dip your unlit candle into the flame of the lit candle being offered. Then as you offer the light to the person beside you, hold your candle upright, letting that person dip their candle into the flame.)

(Seated) ***Carol - Silent Night***

1. Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia! Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!
3. Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light; radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.
4. Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

(Extinguish candles) ***Benediction***

Benediction Response - Joy to the World

Joy to the world! The Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and heaven and nature sing.

Postlude - Carillon de Westminster - Vierge



Service Music: Combined Children's Choirs

Welcome!! We are glad you are here. You are invited to continue the worship experience we share tonight on Sundays, (beginning January 7 at 8:30 and 10:30 am. Sunday School and Confirmation are at 9:30 am.

We will have only one service at 10:00 am on December 31. There will be no Sunday School or Children's Worship but childcare is available for infants through Kindergarten. The church building will be closed on December 25, 26 and January 2.

The gift you bring to honor the Christ Child tonight will be used to support Zoe Empowers, where it will be used to support a group of vulnerable orphans in Zimbabwe. ZOE uses an empowerment model rather than a traditional charity model. For more information, visit their website at www.zoeempowers.org.

Thank you to those who donated poinsettias. You may pick up your poinsettia after the 8:00 pm service or during the week from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.