

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2020

Christmas Eve Service

Please join us online for worship today. The video will go “live” at 5:30pm. We will celebrate Holy Communion this evening. If you did not receive candles and communion from the church, please prepare your elements and your candles for use later in the service. Thank you.

Call to Worship

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.

The grace of God has come to us; Jesus Christ brings salvation to all.

Light shines on those who live in darkness, for a child is born to us this night.

Opening Prayer

Great God, as you came at night when all was still, so enter our lives this night. Illumine our paths with the light of Christ’s presence, that we may clearly see the way, the truth, and the life of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Carol

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Light all four Advent candles and the Christ Candle.

Light one candle for Christ. Because the world is broken and the wait is long, but Christ is with us through it all. In humble manger in a back-water town - a baby. On a convict’s cross - a king. In every heart and every home where hope, peace, joy, and love endure-Christ with us. “Glory to God in the Highest heaven,” she whispers, “and peace to all on earth.” So we light one candle, because it only takes one: Christ with us.

Sung Response *We Gather 'Round* by Rev. Elana Keppel Levy
We gather 'round to worship the child
Whose miraculous life helps us be reconciled.
Reconciled with God and with each other, too.
In his glory he brings us a life that's renewed.
The candles glow, showing us God's light, Calling us forward, united in Christ.

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CANDLES

The Light Foretold

Scripture Readings Isaiah 9:2-7 Heidi Vanderbeek
Isaiah 40:9-11 Penny Arnold

Carol *What Child is This?*

The Light Announced

Scripture Reading Luke 1:26-38 Karen Emery

Carol *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

The Light Is Given

Scripture Reading Luke 2:1-7 Vickie Thum

***Carol** *Away in a Manger*

Scripture Reading Luke 2:8-20 Rick Teal

Carol *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Scripture Reading John 1:1-14 Cheri Booth

Carol

Joy to the World!

The Word Became Flesh

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayers of the People

Words of Institution

Prayer of Remembrance and Consecration

God of light, in whom there is no shadow, Your gifts to us are from the very beginning of time. They began with creation, when Your spirit gave form to the chaos of energy and matter, and when Your word brought forth light on the face of the earth. They continued with our ancient ancestors, like Noah, whom You blessed with the colorful promise of the rainbow. And like Sarah and Abraham, whom You blessed with a child, whose descendants, as many as the stars of the sky, were to be a light to the nations. In the desert, You gave the gifts of manna and of living water to the weary pilgrims whom You led by a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. At last, You sent Your light into the world in the form of a tiny child, fragile and vulnerable, who grew to be the very Light of Light, full of grace and truth, revealing Your glory on earth. We thank You, O God, that You have sent Jesus to bring life and immortality to light. Help us to receive Your gifts with joy and humility. As we receive this bread and wine, may we open our hearts to receive Your love and grace in Jesus Christ, and receive the love and support of one another. Be born among us, that we may give Christ's love to the world, through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

At this time in the service, you are invited to partake in communion.

Prayer After Communion

We give thanks, O God, that You have come to us through Jesus Christ, both in the midst of time and history in the city of Bethlehem, and in the timeless presence of Christ's Spirit as we receive the gifts of bread and wine. Send us out into the world, rejoicing, ready to share Your love with the people we meet; through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Light Spread Abroad

At this point in the service, you are invited to participate in the candle lighting.

Please light your candles from the Christ candle at the center of your Advent Wreath. Pastor will do a reading before we sing our carol.

Carol

Silent Night, Holy Night

Charge & Benediction