

December 24, 2024

5:00 P.M.

Order for Our Worship of God

(*those who are able are invited to stand)

Welcome

Prelude

Call to Worship

Leader: On this holy night, we gather in anticipation and wonder

***People:* To welcome the Prince of Peace into our world once more.**

Leader: Like the shepherds beneath the starlit sky,

***People:* We come to witness God's glory revealed in a humble manger.**

Leader: Through darkness and uncertainty,

***People:* The light of Christ's peace shines forth.**

Leader: Where there is discord, let us sow harmony.

***People:* Where there is fear, let us bring comfort.**

Leader: For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.

***People:* And the government shall be upon his shoulders,**

Leader: And he shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

***All:* In the warmth of candlelight, in the company of faith, we open our hearts to receive heaven's gift of peace. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill to all. Amen.**

*Opening Hymn "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" No. 218

Opening Prayer

Holy God of Peace, as candles flicker in the darkness of this Christmas Eve, we gather in wonder before You. Just as You illuminated the skies over Bethlehem long ago, fill this place with Your presence now.

We come carrying both our joys and burdens, knowing that You chose to enter our world not with royal fanfare, but in the quiet miracle of a newborn child. Open our hearts to receive Your perfect peace anew.

Guide our worship tonight. May every carol we sing and every word we hear draw us closer to the miracle of Emmanuel – God with us. Let Your peace, which passes all understanding, fill this place and transform our lives. In the name of the newborn King, we pray. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES AND CHRIST CANDLE

Choral Introduction "Lift Up Your Eyes"

Reader One: Beloved, today we welcome the Christ Child, the fulfillment of our joy, as we proclaim with the prophet Isaiah, "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

***Congregation:* Christ our joy has come near. Emmanuel, God with us, has come to dwell with us as a tiny baby. "His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this" (Isaiah 9:7).**

Reader Two: We light this candle as a sign of Christ coming to dwell with us, to live in the neighborhood of vulnerable humanity as a vulnerable child. May the light of Christ warm our hearts and light our way as we share the joy of God's salvation wherever we go.

Light the center candle of the Advent wreath.

Choral and Congregation Response "Lift Up Your Eyes" Insert

LESSONS AND CAROLS

The Coming of Jesus Is Announced to Mary and Joseph

Luke 1:26–38; Matthew 1:18–25

Hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vs. 1, 2, 4) No. 211

Preparations for the Birth of Jesus Luke 2:1–5

Hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (vs. 1, 2, 4) No. 230

Jesus Is Born Luke 2:6–7

Hymn "Away in a Manger" No. 217

Jesus' Birth Is Announced to the Shepherds Luke 2:9–14

Hymn "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" (vs. 1, 2) No. 224

The Shepherds Find the Baby Jesus Luke 2:15–20

Hymn "Angels We Have Heard on High" (vs. 1–3) No. 238

The Wise Men Bring Their Gifts to Jesus Matthew 2:1–11

Hymn "The First Noel" (vs. 1–3) No. 245

The Giving of Our Offering

Choir Offertory Song "Baby in a Manger" Nolan

*Presentation "Angels from the Realms of Glory" (vs. 4 & refrain) No. 220

*Prayer of Dedication

Gracious and Giving God, as the Magi brought their treasures to honor the newborn King, we bring our gifts before You on this holy night. Just as You gave us the greatest gift of peace through Your Son, we now return a portion of Your blessings to us. May these offerings become like the star over Bethlehem – guiding others to encounter Christ's love. Use them to bring Your peace to those in turmoil, hope to those in despair, and comfort to those in need.

Transform our monetary gifts into ministries of mercy, our resources into ripples of peace, and our love into living testimonies of the miracle we

celebrate tonight. Through Christ, the Prince of Peace, we pray. Amen.

Meditation	“Peace”	Rev. JongIn Lee
*Hymn	“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”	No. 196
Candlelight Sharing	<i>Pastor will bring the light from the altar to you, and you may pass the light on to the next person, while saying “The light of Christ.”</i>	
Candlelight Sharing	“Silent Night” (v. 1)	No. 239
Candle Lighting Hymn	“Silent Night” (v. 4)	No. 239
*Closing Hymn	“Joy to the World”	No. 246
*Blessing		
Postlude	***	

WE WELCOME ALL to this Christmas Eve Candlelight Service including newcomers and visitors among us. We welcome also Deborah Holden Holloway as our guest organist this evening.

PARTICIPATING IN OUR SERVICE ~ Participating in our service this evening are Rev. JongIn Lee, Pastor; Deborah Holloway, Guest Organist; Brian Pobanz, Liturgist; and Pat Andrews, Daphne Mendolia, Pat Meyers, Dave Murray, Joan Pandorf, and Diane Ribustello, Readers.

POINSETTIAS ~ If you ordered poinsettias for this Christmas Eve service, you are invited to take yours home with you after the service this evening.

PASTOR: *Rev. JongIn Lee*

LAY LEADER: *Dave Murray*

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/ORGANIST: *Dr. Russell Wagoner*

SECRETARY: *Donna E. Mulder*

SEXTON: *Bonnie Mann*

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... to you is born
this day in the city of
David a Savior,
who is the
Messiah, the Lord.
Luke 2:11, NRSV