

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2014

11:00 p.m.

On behalf of our worshipping community, welcome to this Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. We pray, in this oftentimes busy and stressful season, that this night would provide a welcome respite, as well as a chance to receive anew Christ's peace. Welcome.

GATHERING

Prophecy

Jeremiah 33: 14-16

Pg. 645

*HYMN #88 (V. 1, 2) "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

*LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES (Responsive)

One: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

All: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

(The First Advent Candle is lit)

One: He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him and without him not one thing came into being.

All: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

(The Second Advent Candle is lit)

One: What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

All: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

(The Third Advent Candle is lit)

One: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

All: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

(The Fourth Advent Candle is lit)

One: And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

All: The Light still shines! Glory! Glory! The Light of the Ages shines on! Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

(The Christ Candle is lit, as we continue to sing)

*Those able, please stand; congregation reads **BOLD** face type.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

On this night, O God – on this night we confess that we do not want to confess. We do not want to examine our hearts before you and admit to the dark places. We want you to warm us in candlelight, carols, and communion. We desire soft light tonight; not the blinding shining of your glory that terrified the shepherds. We cannot stand in that light. God among us, forgive us. Help us hear your angel saying, “Do not be afraid.” Flood our hearts with the light that drives out all our darknesses. Straighten our backs and loose our timid tongues that we might sing, “Glory!” Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Friends, hear the Good News of the Gospel:

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, healed and made whole!

PROCLAIMING

Prophecy:	Isaiah 9:2-7	Pg. 555
Carol #140 (V. 1, 2)	“Once in Royal David’s City	
Lesson	Luke 2: 1-5	Pg. 832
Carol #121 (V. 1, 4)	“O Little Town of Bethlehem”	
Lesson	Luke 2: 6-7	Pg. 832
Carol #134 (V. 1)	“Joy to the World!”	
Lesson	Luke 2: 8-14	Pg. 833
Carol #119 (V. 1, 3)	“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”	
Lesson	Luke 2: 15-20	Pg. 833

REFLECTION

RESPONDING

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION (by Intinction)

One: The Lord be with you!

All: And also with you!

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(The minister will continue the liturgy. You will be invited to offer any prayers you may wish to name, and to join in the Lord's Prayer. Communion tonight will be served by intinction – you will be invited to come forward and receive the elements).

*Lighting of Individual Candles

*Carol #122

“Silent Night”

BENEDICTION



Christmas Poinsettias - 2014

The beautiful live poinsettia plants decorating our Sanctuary are given to the glory of God by the following:

Justin Ellis-Bowman - In honor of Amy Ellis (mother).

Jason & Megan Cashing - In memory of our grandparents.

Grace & Helen Cibula - In memory of Mrs. & Mrs. John B. Cibula (parents).

Kevin, Tara, Kevin II & Madison Foster - In honor of Jean Waymack, Evelyn Foster, Grace & Helen Cibula, and Frank, Sarah & Frank Jr. Solesbee; In memory of Irving Waymack & Garland Foster.

Ruby Hasky - In memory of Brandon Hasky.

The Hunter Family - In memory of Henry & Pearle Livesay; In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hunter, and Mr. & Mrs. Cliff Mayerhoefer.

David & Patsy Johnson - In memory of Oneita Johnson.

Larry & Linda Johnson - In honor of our beautiful grandchildren, Corinne, Jack, Owen & Natalie; In memory of our parents, Clarence & Ima Johnson and Homer & Mae Elkins.

Dianne Overstreet - In memory of David & Hattie Tatum (grandparents).

Howard Scott & Cory Scott - In memory of Clifford W. Scott, Jr.

Rose Scott & Wayne Powers - In memory of Peg Ward, Roland Wiseman & Jimmy Wiseman.

Marquita Simpson - In memory of Jerry Simpson; In memory of Ruth & John McKillop.

Janet Swinton - In memory of Raymond Swinton.

Barbara Taliaferro - In memory of Tommie Taliaferro.

Gladys Wiseman - In memory of Roland & Jimmy Wiseman.



Poinsettias may be removed after the Christmas Eve service.