

Christmas Eve, December 24, 2020
7:00 p.m.

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

GATHERING

Prophecy Isaiah 9:1-7

MUSIC "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)

MUSIC "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

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 fellowship. 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 darkneses. Straighten our backs and loose our timid tongues that we might sing, "Glory!" Amen.

PROCLAIMING

Prophecy: Luke 1:68-75

Music "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Lesson Luke 2: 1-7

Music "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...

Lesson Luke 2: 8-14

Music "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king. Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations rise; join the triumph of the skies; with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Lesson Luke 2: 15-20

Music "What Child Is This"

What child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary's lap I sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

REFLECTION

Lighting of Individual Candles

MUSIC "Silent Night"

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.

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.

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.

BENEDICTION