



*"An inclusive community, celebrating God's unconditional love
through engaging worship and faithful service"*



December 24, 2021
"Then and Now, the Light of Christ Arrives"
Christmas Eve, 7 pm

Gathering Music

You are invited to greet those around you or sit quietly.

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude

“O Holy Night”

Dwight/Adam

~GOD GATHERS US~

Words of Welcome

Pastor Clare Gromoll

***Opening Carol “O Come, All You Faithful”

#135

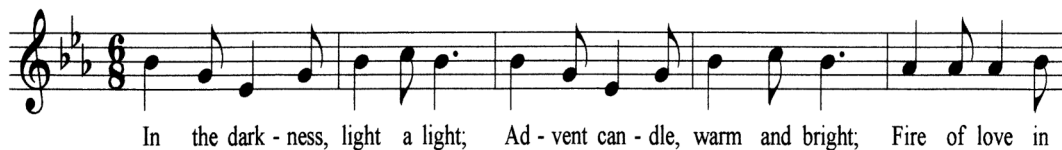
***Lighting the Advent Candles

Calvin & Keely Vandre

One: Advent is a season of waiting and watching for God’s presence with us. This evening we light the first candle of HOPE, the second candle of PEACE, the third candle of JOY and the fourth candle of LOVE. As we seek to fulfill our congregation’s purpose; we are wondering, longing, and expecting the new life that God is bringing forth among us.

All: We welcome this new life that embraces all beings with hope, peace, joy, and love!

***Advent Candle Song “In the Darkness, Light a Light” *German carol words by Judith Melander*



*****Opening Prayer**

One: Holy Center of this most holy season, Jesus, child and ruler: all our wanderings come home to you, all our griefs and delights find a place in the stable where you transform poverty, pain, loneliness and rejection.

**All: Your light shines in our lives; your peace embraces our struggle; your life opens us to new awareness of ourselves and of our neighbors, however we may find them—as poor as shepherds, as foreign as magi, as generous as innkeepers, as vulnerable as infants. In your humble birth we discover your everlasting majesty and grace. We welcome you and offer you our thanks and praise, in your glorious name.
Amen.**

prayerful silence

*****Assurance of Grace & Invitation to Pass the Peace**

We safely share a sign of peace with those nearest to us

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you! **All: And also with you!**

Duet “Night of Silence” *Jenni Shaller & Keely Vandre*

~LESSONS & CAROLS~

The Inclusive Bible

The First Reading

Isaiah 9: 2-7

Kathy Iverson

The people walking in darkness are seeing a brilliant light—
upon those who dwell in a land of deep shadows light is shining!

God, you have made the nation greater—
you have brought them abundant joy!

They celebrate in your presence as with the harvest celebrations,
or as warriors celebrate when dividing spoils.

For the yoke that burdened them, the weight on their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressors—you have shattered it,
as you did at the defeat of Midian.

cont...

For every boot that tramped in battle, every cloak that was dragged through
blood, is now used as fuel for the fire.

For a child is born to us, an heir is given us, upon whose shoulders dominion
will rest. This One shall be called Wonderful Counselor, the Strength of God,
Eternal Protector, Champion of Peace.

This dominion, and this peace, will grow, without end, with David's throne
and realm sustained with justice and fairness, now and forever.

The zeal of God Omnipotent will accomplish it!

Carol

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

#127

The Second Reading

Luke 2: 1-7

In those days, Caesar Augustus published a decree ordering a census of the
whole Roman world. This first census took place while Quirinius was
governor of Syria. All the people were instructed to go back to the towns of
their birth to register.

And so Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to “the city of
David”—Bethlehem, in Judea, because Joseph was of the house and lineage
of David; he went to register with Mary, his espoused wife,
who was pregnant.

While they were there, the time came for her delivery. She gave birth to her
firstborn, a son; she put him in a simple cloth wrapped like a
receiving blanket, and laid him in a feeding trough for cattle, because there
was no room for them at the inn.

Carol

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

#133

The Third Reading

Luke 2: 8-12

There were shepherds in the area living in the fields and keeping night watch
by turns over their flock.

The angel of God appeared to them, and the glory of God shone around them;
they were very much afraid.

The angel said to them, “You have nothing to fear! I come to proclaim good
news to you—new of a great joy to be shared by the whole people.

Today in David's city, a savior—the Messiah—has been born to you.

Let this be a sign to you; you'll find an infant wrapped in a simple cloth,
lying in a manger.”

Carol

“Joy to the World”

#132

The Fourth Reading

Luke 2: 13-14

Suddenly, there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying,
“Glory to God in high heaven! And on Earth, peace to those on whom God’s favor rests.”

Carol

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

#125

The Fifth Reading

Luke 2: 15-20

When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go straight to Bethlehem and see this event that God has made known to us.”

They hurried and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger; once they saw this, they reported what they had been told concerning the child.

All who heard about it were astonished at the report given by the shepherds. Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart. The shepherds went away glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as they had been told.

Carol

“What Child is This?”

#148

*****The Sixth Reading**

John 1: 1-14

In the Beginning there was the Word;
the Word was in God’s presence, and the Word was God.
The Word was present to God from the beginning.
Through the Word all things came into being, and apart from the Word nothing came into being that has come into being.
In the Word was life, and that life was humanity’s light—a Light that shines in the darkness, a Light that the darkness has never overtaken.
Then came one named John, sent as an envoy from God, who came as a witness to testify about the Light,
so that through his testimony everyone might believe.

cont...

He himself wasn't the Light; he only came to testify about the Light—the true Light that illumines all humankind.

The Word was coming into the world—was in the world—and though the world was made through the Word, the world didn't recognize it.

Though the Word came to its own realm, the Word's own people didn't accept it. Yet any who did accept the Word, who believed in that Name, were empowered to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor urge of flesh nor human will—but born of God.

And the Word became flesh and stayed for a little while among us;
we saw the Word's glory—
the favor and position a parent gives an only child—
filled with grace, filled with truth.

***Lighting The Christ Candle

***Carol

“Glory to God”

#34 *Chalice Hymnal*

① Dm Gm C F ② Dm Gm C F

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!

③ Dm Gm C F ④ Dm Gm C F

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Message “Then and Now, the Light of Christ Arrives”

~OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS~

A Prayer For Christmastide

The Invitation

Offertory “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” *German Tune*

*****Sung Response** “In the Bleak Midwinter”

**What can I offer, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise one, I would do my part;
but what can I offer: all my heart.**

*****Prayer of Dedication**

We praise you, hidden God, that in Jesus Christ you have come to us to speak your Word of love and life. Touch us with unearthly joy, like the singing of angels. Fill us with wonder, like the eyes of Children. Teach us to humble ourselves before you, like the worshiping magi. May our journey to the manger be only the beginning of a lifetime of service to Jesus our Christ. In gratitude and hope, we dedicate our gifts of love, money, and prayer to the work of your love. Amen.

~THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES~

*****Benediction**

*****Preparing To Share The Light Of Christ**

*****Carol**

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

#134

**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, shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**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.**

*****Postlude**

“Joy to the World”

Handel

*Please depart the Sanctuary quietly, greeting one another in hushed tones
You are also welcome to linger in the quiet and candlelight*

Please join us afterward for treats and conversation downstairs

We encourage donations to “Offering & Tithes” (our general fund).
Scanning the QR Code takes you to the “Giving” page of our website.



Join us for upcoming worship services:

Dec. 26, 9:30 am, with more beloved carols

Jan. 2, 9:30 am @ People's Park

Jan. 9, 9:30 am, with a guest preacher

Thank you for all who made today wonderful: Music Dir. Michael Bjork, Worship
Accompanist Sharon Neuenfeldt, Jenni Shaller & Keely Vandre (beautiful music),
Kathy Iverson & Keely Vandre (liturgists), Calvin Vandre (acolyte),
Bob & Kathy Iverson (greeters, fellowship hosts),
Michael Bjork (recorder)

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