



**Order of Worship ~ December 24, 2021
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

PRELUDE The Little Drummer Boy Katherine Kennecott Davis

SPECIAL MUSIC

Christmas Peace Canon

Words & Music: Jean Anne Shafferman

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WELCOME Pastor David Cote

CALL TO WORSHIP (John 1:1-5)

Leader: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.

All: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

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

All: What is born in Christ is life itself, everlasting, and that life is the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it!!!

HYMN O Come All Ye Faithful, #148

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Words: John Francis Wade (1743); tr. Frederick Oakeley and others (1841), and others

Tune: John Francis Wade (1743); desc. David Willcocks (1961)

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*O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the King of angels:*

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

*Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all
glory in the highest;*

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

*Child, for us sinners
poor and in the manger,
we would embrace thee, with love and awe;
who would not love thee,
loving us so dearly?*

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

*Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born for our salvation,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:*

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

God and Father of Jesus, on this Holy Night, You gave us Your Son, the Lord of the universe and the Savior of all peoples. An infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. In the first moments of his life, You showed us Your love. Open us to the mystery of this night, enabling us to recognize him in these plain-spoken words as we enter into this sacred time. All this we ask in His name, He who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever. Amen!

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 trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And Lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For think is the kingdom, And the power, and the glory, Forever and ever. Amen.

CAROL: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear, (Verses 1&4), # 153

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Words: Edmund H. Sears (1849)

Music: Richard S. Willis (1850)

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*It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, good will to all
from heaven's all-gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.*

*For lo, the days are hastening on,
by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years,
shall come the time foretold;
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.*

RECEIVING OUR OFFERING (Free Will Offering to Tornado Relief, TABCOM)

WE OFFER OURSELVES TO GOD

Invitation to Offer Ourselves for God's Work, with our time, talent, and treasure.

SPECIAL MUSIC

African Alleluia

Words & Music: Benjamin Harlan

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DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow #46

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674

MUSIC: Louis Bourgeois, 1551

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*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, all creatures here below
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)

Lord, may these humble offerings help improve the lives of those devastated by the recent storms. We ask that the leadership entrusted with these gifts to be guided by Your wisdom on how best they should be used to provide comfort, food, and housing where it is needed. Amen!

The Light of Hope (Pat and Shirley Hitlin)

The Prophecy Isaiah 9: 1a, 2b-7

Lighting the Candle of Hope

Carol Hark, the Herald Angels Sing, (Verse #1), #150

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Words: Charles Wesley (1739, alt.)

Tune: Felix Mendelssohn (1840); arr. William H. Cummings (1856); desc. Paul Liljestrand

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*Hark! the herald-angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born 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 new-born King!"*

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Loving God, what an amazing event that took place on that first Christmas morning when Your Son was born in human form—clothed in a body that You had prepared for Him so that He would save the lost sinners from eternal separation from You. It amazes our hearts and minds that He should be born to die so that we could be reborn to live. We praise You Holy One for the miracle of it all, and we thank You for the "Good News." For the great joy proclaimed to all the people that a child was born of Mary and is the Savior of all who believe in Him. Help me never lose the child-like wonder of the glory of that first Christmas morning. I praise Your name through time and into eternity, for You alone are worthy of all honor and praise. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

The Light of Peace Chris and Nancy Castendyk

The Prophecy Isaiah 11: 1-9

Lighting the Candle of Peace

Carol Let There Be Peace On Earth, # 677

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Words & Music: Jill Jackson, Sy Miller; harm.: Charles H. Webb (1987)
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*Let there be peace on earth, And let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth, that peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator, children all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.*

*Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.*

The Light of Joy Steve and Judy LaVergne
The Fulfillment Luke 2:1-20
Lighting the Candle of Joy

Carol O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, (Verse #1), #119

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Words: st. 1-2 tr.: John Mason Neale (1851); st. 3-4 tr.: Henry Sloane Coffin (1916)
Music: Thomas Helmore (1854)
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*O come, O come Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.*

*Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

The Light of Love Paul and Loretta
The Fulfillment John 3:16-17
Lighting the Candle of Love

Carol What Child Is This?, (Verse #1), #162

What Child Is This?

Words: William C. Dix (c. 1865)

Music: English melody (16th century)

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*What child is this, who, laid to rest
on Mary's lap is 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.*

The Light of the World Harry, Glenna, and Jonathan Pearson
The Fulfillment John 1:1-5,14
Lighting the Christ Candle

Prayer of Blessing for the Light

Carol O Little Town of Bethlehem, #144

O Little Town of Bethlehem

WORDS: Phillips Brooks, 1868, alt.

MUSIC: Lewis H. Redner (1868)

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*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*

*For Christ is born of Mary; and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth.
Your voices raise to God in praise; and peace to all on earth;*

*How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the joys of highest heaven.
No ear may hear Christ coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.*

*O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell:
Oh, come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!*

The Light of the Star Bob and Barbara Cordell
The Fulfillment Matthew 2: 1-12

Carol We Three Kings, (Verses 1 & 5), #172

We Three Kings

Words & Music: John H. Hopkins, Jr. (1857)
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*We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.*

*O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

*Glorious now behold him arise,
Christ and God and sacrifice:
alleluia, alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies.*

*O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

Brief Meditation The Mystery of it All Pastor Dave Cote

Hymn Joy to the World, #143

Joy to the World

Words: Isaac Watts (1719)
Music: Attr. George Frederick Handel (1741); arr. Lowell Mason (1848)
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*Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,*

*and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*

*Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains*

*Repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness*

*and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.*

Time for personal reflection

Sharing the Light of Christ

As Silent Night plays, please stand and stay in your pew, hold your unlit candle and your Hymnal. The Pastor will take the light from the Christ Candle, and we will pass the light from candle to candle as we hum “Silent Night.” When all our candles are lit, we will sing Silent Night together.

Hymn Silent Night, Holy Night, #145

Silent Night (Stille Nacht)

Words: Joseph Mohr (1818); tr. John F. Young (1863)

Music: Franz Gruber (1818)

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*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.*

*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.*

The Christmas Proclamation

Postlude

Go Tell It On the Mountain

Words & Music: John Wesley Work Jr.

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Have a Most Merry and Blessed Christmas!