

# CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00PM

L = Leader / C = Congregation)

## WELCOME

**SONG #283** *Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful*

## WE GREET ONE ANOTHER

**SONG #270** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Pastor: Dear Father,

**All:** we are in darkness, but with you there is light. We thank and praise you this night for the birth of Jesus into our flesh and our world. Let his light drive out our darkness and fear. Let his love warm our cold hearts, and let his grace set us free. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

## THE WORD

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have



increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of

the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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.

## SECOND READING Psalm 96:1-4a

L: Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

C: **Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;  
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

L: Declare God's glory among the nations  
and God's wonders among all peoples.

C: **For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised**

**GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-7** In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

### SONG #279 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

**GOSPEL: Luke 2:8-14** In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you:



you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

### SONG #282 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

**GOSPEL: Luke 2:15-20** When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."



<sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered

them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**SONG #296** *What Child Is This?*

**CHRISTMAS EVE MESSAGE** Pastor John Twiton

**SONG #267** *Joy to the World*

**OFFERING - Music Team "Come and Worship"**

## **THE PRAYERS**

- L: We celebrate this day the birth of the Christ child, and the amazing news brought to the shepherds by the chorus of angels, singing,
- C: **"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!"**
- L: The infant king came to rule with justice and peace. Show the way of peace to our world's leaders, and make them examples of justice for all.
- C: **Through the birth of your son, all the children of the earth are sisters and brothers; your beloved creation. Help us to see through your eyes, and to love people of every tribe, clan, community, family, culture, and country**
- L: Into a human family your son was born, yet humanity is frail, weak, and broken. Grant healing and wholeness to all who suffer from illness, addiction, imprisonment, isolation, abuse, grief, and any who are in need. Grant them comfort and healing

**C: Bless your children wherever they are this night, and help us to share your love with all in need.**

L: Trusting that you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, we give ourselves fully to you, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

**CELEBRATING THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD** *We will conclude this evening's service in candlelight*

*Please light your candles*

## **SONG #277** *Away in a Manger*

### **CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER** by Robert Louis Stevenson

Loving God, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.



May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

## **SONG #281** *Silent Night*

**BLESSING (from John 1)**

L: Jesus, Light of the World, all good things shine brightly in your kingdom. Transform us so that we shine with the brilliance of your grace and truth, to bring light to the darkness, hope where there is fear, and life where there was death, in Your Name we pray.

**All: Amen.**

**WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM  
CHRISTMAS MORNING.**

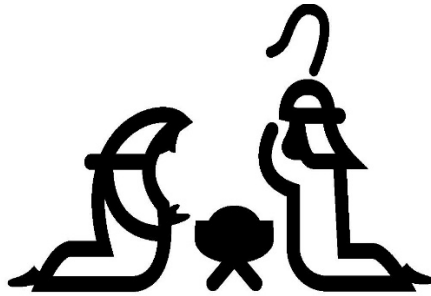
**THANK YOU FOR ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP**

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**ACOLYTES: Drake Ploessl & Josie Sailor**

**READER: Steve Knuteson**

**USHERS**



MERRY CHRISTMAS

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