

CHRISTMAS EVE 8:00pm

(+ = stand if able; all hymns & liturgy from green hymnal)

(L = Leader / **C** = **Congregation**)

GATHERING

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Diane Dangerfield
Paul & Ruth Heinecke

WELCOME

+HYMN #283 *Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful*

CHRISTMAS EVE LITANY

L: We were walking in cold and darkness. Now we dwell in the warmth of your light. For your love and goodness

C: we give you thanks, O God.

L: A child has been born for us, a new beginning is given to us. For your love and goodness

C: we give you thanks, O God.

L: You are our creator, you dwell in our midst, you bring us your peace. For your love and goodness

C: we give you thanks, O God.

SHARING THE PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

All: Dear Father, 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.

+HYMN #282 *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* (vs. 1 & 3)

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. ³You 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. ⁴For 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. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For 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. ⁷His 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.

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**

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-7 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the



house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

HYMN #279 O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs. 1, 2)

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL: Luke 2:8-14 And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!"



HYMN #289 *Angels We Have Heard on High* (vs. 1, 3)

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL: Luke 2:15-20 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them

HYMN #270 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (vs. 1 & 3)

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE Pastor John Twiton

HYMN #296 *What Child Is This?* (vs. 1 & 2)

MEAL

OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC - "O Holy Night"

Noah Strube

OFFERTORY PRAYER: Lord God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. Bless the gifts we offer this day, and let them be blessings for others. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING (8:00 p.m. only) +p. 144

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (8:00 p.m. only)

LORD'S PRAYER +p. 145 (right-hand column)

COMMUNION

Communion Hymns

#271 *I'm So Glad Each Christmas Eve*

273 *All My Heart This Night Rejoices*

CELEBRATING THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

We ask you to join in the lighting of candles and song.

HYMN #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, & 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.

HYMN #281 *Silent Night, Holy Night!*

CLOSING PRAYER

All: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; Through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION

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.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace, and with the light of Christ, love and serve the world!

C: Thanks be to God!

+CLOSING HYMN #267 *Joy to the World*

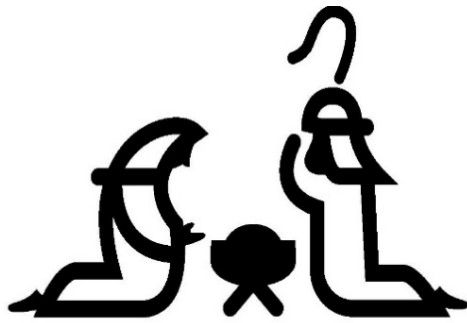
**WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM
CHRISTMAS MORNING.**

THANK YOU FOR ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

ACOLYTES: Skylar Schulenberg
Carter Vesely

READER: Dawn Haag

USHERS



MERRY CHRISTMAS
