

CHRISTMAS EVE

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24, 2023



TODAY'S OFFERING OF WORSHIP THIS CHRISTMAS EVE

OPENING CAROL SING

- #120 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*
- #153 *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*
- #165 *Away in a Manger*
- #167 *The First Noel* (verses 1, 2, and 6)
- #154 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*
- #157 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

We gather together...

CHORAL INTROIT: *Hodie Christus Natus Est*

Erik Meyer

*Today Christ is born. Today the Savior appeared.
Today on earth the angels sing, archangels rejoice:
Today the righteous rejoice, saying:
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill to all.
Alleluia.*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

WELCOME

***HYMN #147:** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

***INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER**

We do come to you, O Emmanuel, even as you have come to us in flesh appearing. We come with joy and adoration, giving you alone glory. May our voices join the choirs of angels through the ages who have sung in exaltation of the incarnate Christ. And may our voices join with the voice of your Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray saying,

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

...to hear God's Word...

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 62:6-12 (*Old Testament page 693*)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Amen.**

PSALM

Psalms 97 (*New Testament page 551*) **Amen.**

SECOND LESSON

Titus 3:4-7 (*New Testament page 215*)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Amen.**

A READING: *Why the Bells Rang: Read by Jane Leach*

Raymond MacDonald Alden

CHORAL ANTHEM: *Jul, Jul*

Chris de Silva

*Jul, Jul, glorious Jul, shine bright for all creation.
Starlight from heaven, illumine the night; in every heart, God's love shines and burns bright.
Heaven's song sung time and time again; all the world longs for Love's peaceful refrain.*

*Come, Come, Christmas light, come, wrap us in wings of splendor.
Turn us from turmoil, from darkness of sin; Save us from sadness; birth gladness with in.
Watch over all those who journey to peace. Love, joy and wonder in each heart increase.*

Shine bright, Love's peaceful refrain. Jul, Jul, glorious Jul, shine bright for all creation.

***GOSPEL LESSON**

Luke 2:1-20 (*New Testament page 58*)

The Gospel of our Lord, God's living Word. **Thanks be to God.**

***HYMN #151:** *In the Bleak Midwinter*

HOMILY: *Rev. Todd Johnson*

...and to respond with our lives...

CHORAL ANTHEM: *What' Cha Gonna Call the Pretty Little Baby*

Arr. Ronald L. Stevens, Sr.

*What 'cha gonna call the pretty little baby born, born in the Bethlehem.
Pretty little baby lying in the manger. Shepherds and wisemen worship the baby.
Humble and holy son of God. Come to save the world from sin.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

...in the places we now go.

***HYMN #172: Silent Night**

***BENEDICTION**

May Christ our infant Savior give you the joy of the Bethlehem shepherds, the awe of the worshipping sages, and the humility and love of Mary and Joseph. **AMEN.**

May God who sent angels from heaven to proclaim the glad news of our Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel in all you say and do. **AMEN.**

May Christ, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven give you God's peace and favor. **AMEN.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you forever. **AMEN.**

***RESPONSE: Good Christians All, Rejoice**

Good Christians all, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!

Listen now to what we say.

News! News! Jesus Christ is born today!

Come, rejoice, before him bow, as he is in the manger now!

Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

***HYMN #146: Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come**

POSTLUDE

Merry Christmas!

GREETER: Cinda Madonna

READERS: Rebecca and Axel Nelson

USHER: Jane Leach

LIVESTREAM: Karl Nelson

