

**Christmas Eve
December 24, 2020**

**Gathering
*God invites us to enter His presence***

Prelude

String Quartet, Harp

Welcome & Announcements

Preparation for Worship (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

🕯 Call to Worship

The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
**on those living in the land of the shadow of death
a light has dawned.**

Jesus Christ is our life and light.
In his name and in his power, let us worship God!

🕯 Invocation

He came as a baby in a manger.
O come, let us adore him.
He came in a lowly stable.
O come, let us adore him.
Shepherds brought their worship.
O come, let us adore him.
Angels sang his praise.
O come, let us adore him.
Magi brought their gifts.
O come, let us adore him.
What shall we do?
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord! Amen.

🕯 Lighting of the Christ Advent Candle

Leader: We come from a world of darkness.
All: Into Christ's world of light.
Leader: We come from a world of weariness.
All: Into God's strength and hope.
Leader: We come from a slumbering world.
**All: Strengthened by the Spirit, we come to awaken
our souls and watch for the coming of Chris**

Hymn of Praise 145

O Come all Ye Faithful

*Carol Covert – Soprano, Kelly Fox – Soprano, Pamela Johnson – alto, Gary Covert – tenor,
Gloria Harrison - violin 1, Grace Pehlert - violin 2 ,
Marianne Richter-Menger - viola , Stefan Menger - cello
,Kathryn Riggs – harp, Linda Gyath - piano*

*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!*

(Refrain)

*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,
O sing, all ye bright hosts of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
Refrain.*

*Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
Refrain*

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Confessing

God invites us to be honest with Him

Prayer of Confession

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What shall we do?
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord! Amen.

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.
Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;
he is the Messiah, the Lord.

Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

Special Music

Breathe of Heaven
Solo – Kelly Fox

Proclaiming ***God speaks to us through His Word***

Prayer of Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.

⁵ And he shall be their peace.

Hymn 155 *Once in David's Royal City (V. 1, 2, 4)*

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,

*Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for His bed;
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.*

*He came down to earth from heaven Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall:
With the poor, and mean, and lowly lived on earth, our Savior holy.*

*And our eyes at last shall see Him Thro' His own redeeming love;
For that Child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above,
And He leads His children on to the place where He is gone.*

Hymn 141 *O Little Town of Bethlehem (V. 1, 4)*

*O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see the 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.*

*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;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel. Amen.*

New Testament Reading *Luke 2:1-20*

2 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This was the first registration when[□] Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** And all went to be registered, each to his own town. **4** And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, **5** to be registered with Mary, his betrothed,[□] who was with child. **6** And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. **7** And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. **10** And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. **11** For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. **12** And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵ 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." ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Sermon

"The Promised One"
Rev. Tim Latham

Hymn 132

Angels We Have Heard on High (V. 1, 3)

*Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.*

(Refrain)

*Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*Come to Bethlehem, and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Refrain.*

Hymn 133

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."*

*Christ, by highest heav'n adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of the Virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."*

*Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.
Hark! The Herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King."*

Responding
We respond to God's Word

! Profession of Faith

Leader: Let us now profess our faith along with the saints through the ages.

People: We believe that God fulfilled the promise that He made to the early fathers, by the mouth of His holy prophets, when He sent His only and eternal Son into the world. The Son took the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of man, truly assuming a real human nature, with all its weaknesses, except for sin. He not only assumed human nature as far as the body is concerned, but also a real human soul, in order that He might be a real human being. For since the soul had been lost as well as the body, He had to assume them both to save them both together. He is truly our Immanuel - God with Us.

Prayers of the People

Commissioning
God sends us out into the world as His witnesses

Hymn 147

Silent Night
Kelly Fox – soprano, Chuck Stauffer - guitar

*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.

 **Benediction & Blessing**

 **Postlude**

String Quartet