Christmas Eve December 24, 2021

<u>Gathering</u> God invites us to enter His presence

Prelude

Medley of Christmas Carols <u>Owls Nest Brass</u>

Mason Delpino, Trumpet John Dolan, Trumpet Mary Ann Quarry, Euphonium Charity Harter, Tuba

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

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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.**

🖞 Hymn 124	Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus (Vs. 1 & 2) into,
125	Joy to the World (Vs. 1 & 3)

We light [*these candles*] as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Advent means coming. We are preparing for the full coming of God's kingdom:

The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. —*from Isaiah 2:4, NRSV* The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall live down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. —*Isaiah 11:6, NRSV*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. *—Isaiah 35:1-2, NRSV*

The Lord will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel ("God is with us"). *—from Isaiah 7:14, NRSV*

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.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

<u>Confessing</u> God invites us to be honest with Him

Prayer of Confession

Generous God, you give us the greatest gift of all, yourself, but often we find it hard to take notice; we are caught up with our own gifts, given and received. Forgive us, generous God, for the casual way we treat your gift of love. Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,

because he will save his people from their sins.

Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God!**

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

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!

<u>Offering</u>

Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him

Invitation

With thankfulness we give in gratitude and joy. With prayerfulness we give in sacrifice and love. With hopefulness we give in commitment to God.

Offering

Offertory

All is Well Solo—Kelly Fox Kirkpatrick/Smith

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.

Prayer of Dedication

God of wonder, we offer you these humble gifts, signs of your goodness and mercy. Receive them with our gratitude, that through us all people may know the riches of your love in the Word-made-flesh. **Amen.**

Y Hymn 141

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Proclaiming God speaks to us through His Word

Scripture Reading Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ The birth of Jesus Christ came about this way: After his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, it was discovered before they came together that she was pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ So her husband, Joseph, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her publicly, decided to divorce her secretly.

²⁰ But after he had considered these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

²² Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ See, the virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name him Immanuel

which is translated "God is with us."

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did as the Lord's angel had commanded him. He married her ²⁵ but did not have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. And he named him Jesus.

Sermon

"And They Will Name Him" *Rev. Tim Latham*

Responding We respond to God's Word

🖞 Hymn 132	Angels We Have Heard on High (Vs. 1 & 3) into
133	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (Vs. 1, 2, & 3)

Profession of Faith

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. —John 1:1-5, 9-14, NRSV

Prayers of the People

<u>Commissioning</u> God sends us out into the world as His witnesses

Lighting of the Candles

Ushers will come forward to light their candles and then light all other candles as the congregation remains seated and quiet. Then we will stand to sing "Silent Night". **Caution**: Please don't tip lighted candles.

Y Hymn 147 Silent Night

Christmas Blessing & Benediction

(Please blow out candles)

***Postlude** Hark the Herald Angels Sing *Stand if you are able. Broughton

Please blow out your candles and return them to the basket by the stairs as you leave.