

**Christmas Eve  
December 24, 2022  
7:00 PM Service**

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

**Prelude**                      *Christmas Carol Medley*  
   *Brass Choir*  
   *John Spangenburg, Trumpet*  
   *Michael Antonacci, French Horn*  
   *Will Rachko, Trombone*  
   *Nancy Warrington*

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Preparation for Worship** (*Time for Silent Preparation*)



**Call to Worship**

*Susan Obenschain*

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**

*Susan Obenschain*

God of glory,  
your splendor shines from a manger in Bethlehem  
into the darkness of human night.  
Open our eyes to Christ's presence in the shadows of our world  
so that we, like him, may become beacons of your justice  
and defenders of all for whom there is no room. **Amen.**



**Hymn 124**

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*  
*Verses 1 & 2 with*



**Hymn 125**

*Joy to the World!*  
*Verses 1, 2 & 4*

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

*Luke Keeler*

[*Christmas reading, after lighting the Christ candle*]  
Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
We light this candle because Jesus, the light of the world,  
was born on this day,

and he brightens all things.  
**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!**

**Confessing**  
***God invites us to be honest with Him***

**Call to Confession**

*Susan Obenschain*

Today we celebrate that Jesus, our Lord,  
came to earth as a human, just like us but without sin.  
He came so that we who sin may be freed from sin.  
With the peace that comes from knowing Jesus came,  
let us confess our sins and be forgiven.

**Prayer of Confession**

*Susan Obenschain*

Almighty God,  
you who shaped out of nothing all that is,  
forgive us for returning empty-handed.  
You who called forth light,  
forgive our preference for the dark!  
You who sent John to be a voice crying,  
forgive our unwillingness to say anything at all!  
Create in us clean hearts, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within us.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Time for Silent Confession**

**Assurance of Pardon**

*Susan Obenschain*

When the fullness of time had come,  
God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,  
in order to redeem those who were under the law,  
so that we might receive adoption as children.

*Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord*

***All: Thanks be to God!***

**! O Come, O Come Emmanuel (V. 1)**

*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!*

## Offering

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

### Offering

### Offertory

*O Holy Night  
Nancy Warrington, Vocals  
Pamela Johnson Piano*

### ! Doxology

*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.**

### ! Hymn 132

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

### ! Hymn 133

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (All)*

## Proclaiming

*God speaks to us through His Word*

### Children's Sermon

*What's in a Name?*

*Susan Obenschain*

### Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 9:1-7*

**9** Nevertheless, the gloom of the distressed land will not be like that of the former times when he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali. But in the future he will bring honor to the way of the sea, to the land east of the Jordan, and to Galilee of the nations.

<sup>2</sup>The people walking in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
a light has dawned  
on those living in the land of darkness.

<sup>3</sup>You have enlarged the nation

and increased its joy.  
The people have rejoiced before you  
as they rejoice at harvest time  
and as they rejoice when dividing spoils.  
<sup>4</sup>For you have shattered their oppressive yoke  
and the rod on their shoulders,  
the staff of their oppressor,  
just as you did on the day of Midian.  
<sup>5</sup>For every trampling boot of battle  
and the bloodied garments of war  
will be burned as fuel for the fire.  
<sup>6</sup>For a child will be born for us  
a son will be given to us,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
He will be named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.  
<sup>7</sup>The dominion will be vast,  
and its prosperity will never end.  
He will reign on the throne of David  
and over his kingdom,  
to establish and sustain it  
with justice and righteousness from now on and forever.  
The zeal of the LORD of Armies will accomplish this.

### **New Testament Reading**

*John 1:1-5*

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> All things were created through him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> That light shines in the darkness, and yet the darkness did not overcome it.

### **Sermon**

*“God With Us: A Light in the Darkness”  
Rev. Tim Latham*

### **Responding We respond to God’s Word**

 **Hymn 141**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

 **Profession of Faith**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only begotten of the Father before all worlds;  
God of God, Light of light,  
very God of very God;**

begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made.  
Who, for us and our salvation,  
came down from heaven,  
and became incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

**Commissioning**

***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.*

 **Hymn 147**

*Silent Night*

**Christmas Blessing & Benediction**

(Please blow out candles)

**Postlude**

*Joy to the World!*

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