

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF WORSHIP

December 24, 2011 · 7:00 PM

(*) Those who are able, please stand. Large print hymnals and wireless hearing aids are available; ask an usher. Members, please wear your name tag.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Still, Still, Still" Manz

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Bruce & Kristen Stewart

Unison Prayer: **Risen Christ, Light of the world,
shine in our lives and shine among us now.
Hallelujah! Amen!**

*CAROL "O Come, All Ye Faithful" No. 41

*CHRISTMAS PRAYER (Unison) Leader: Jessie Clough

Invitation

Unison Prayer

God of wonder and joy,
we have waited during this season of longing.
You have sent your prophets to proclaim the word of hope.
You placed in us a yearning for new birth.
You promised your abiding presence.
We confess our impatience, our struggles to believe,
our wonder at the depth of your love for us.
Now we give you thanks for hope fulfilled,
for the yearning satisfied,
for the promise kept in the coming of your Son.
We rejoice in the birth of the Messiah. Amen

*CAROL "All My Heart Today Rejoices" No. 21

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 9:2-7

"The Word of the Lord / Thanks be to God!" OT Pew Bible Page 494

ANTHEM "When God's Time Had Ripened" A Fedak

GOSPEL READING Luke 2:1-20

"The Word of the Lord / Thanks be to God!" NT Pew Bible Page 44

CHILDREN'S TALK Pastor Sam

SERMON "Where's Good News When We Need It?"

*CAROL "In the Bleak Midwinter" No. 36

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Christmas Creed from Latin America

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the power of the gospel, which began in Bethlehem.

I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a small village, of whose coming the shepherds saw the sign, and for whom there was no room in the inn.

I believe in the one whose life changed the course of history, over whom the kings of the earth had no power, and who was not understood by the proud.

I believe in the one to whom the poor, the oppressed, the discouraged, the afflicted, the sick, the blind, the leprous gave welcome, and accepted as Lord and Savior.

I believe in the one who with love changed the heart of the proud, and with his life showed that it is more important to serve than to be served, and that the greatest joy is giving your life for others.

I believe in peace, which is not the absence of war, but justice among all people and nations, and love among all.

I believe in reconciliation, forgiveness, and the transforming power of the gospel. I believe that Christmas is strength and power, and that this world can change if with humility and faith we kneel before the manger.

I believe that I must be the first one to do so.
(author anonymous; translated by Joyce Hill; use by permission)

OFFERING

Song of Praise "Lift Up Your Heads" No. 8

Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ, Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Invitation

Offertory Music "Angels We Have Heard on High" Rawsthorne

Prayer of Dedication

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Each tray of communion bread has a small dish of rice cake pieces for those who may need to avoid wheat products

Invitation to the Table

Sharing Joys and Concerns

(Continued on Back)

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER *continued*

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord be with you. / **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. / **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(Prayer concludes with the Lord's Prayer, using "forgive us our debts...")

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

CAROL

"Silent Night"

Remain Seated

(As the flame is being passed, hold the lighted candle erect to avoid dripping wax)

Verse 1

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

Verse 2

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

Verse 3

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 "

Verse 4

Silent night, holy night

Wondrous star, lend thy light

With the angels let us sing

Alleluia to our King

Christ, the Savior is born

Christ, the Savior is born

*BENEDICTION – concluding with

Pastor: God is good

People: **All the time!**

POSTLUDE

"Ding, Dong, Merrily on High"

Rawsthorne

Thank You to Guest Trumpeter, Ron D'Angelo

Thank you to our Usher Team led by Armen Roubian
to our Greeters: Ed & Nancy Weed and Muffy & Dave Engelbert
and to our Communion Assistants

MERRY CHRISTMAS

The angel said to them:

"Do not be afraid;

*I bring you good news of great joy
for all people."*



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