

Mem 1
Christmas Eve
Pastor Chon Pugh
Lay Reader Leigh Ann Jacobs
December 24, 2022
**Please stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

WELCOME - MISSION AND MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Christmas Eve worship! The good news of great joy that the angels sang of on this holy night and the joy the shepherds felt as they ran to the Babe of Bethlehem will wash over you as we join together in Scripture, song, sermon and candlelight to celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Gift of Joy from heaven above.

I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Luke 2: 10

***ENTRANCE HYMN:** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* #283 ELW v. 1

**1 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!**

***CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

P: Good and giving God, as much as we want Christmas to be the best of times, sometimes it is the worst of times.

ALL: **Some of us have spent too much money and we are worried sick about it.**

P: Others of us are struggling with our health, or the health of a loved one.

ALL: **Some are wrestling with old hurts that won't heal and new wounds that won't go away.**

P: Still others are missing loved ones this Christmas -

ALL: **Either because of distance, death or because of cruel design.**

P: Our hurts and lost hopes rob us of Christmas joy.

ALL: **And we dwell in the darkness of sin and unbelief.**

P: I bring you good news of great joy. Not for some of the people. Not for most of the people. Not for a lot of the people. This is good news of great joy for all the people. Joy and forgiveness are Christ's gifts to everyone! In the town of David, a Savior is born. He is Christ the Lord. This is good news of great joy.

ALL: **For all the people!**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

PROCESSION OF JOSEPH: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* #279 v. 1

**1. O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee 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.**

FIRST LESSON: Luke 2:1- 4

PROCESSION OF MARY: *What Child Is This #296 v. 1*

**1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!**

SECOND LESSON: Luke 2:5

PROCESSION OF JESUS: *Away in a Manger #277 v. 1*

**1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

THIRD LESSON: Luke 2:6-7

PROCESSION OF SHEPHERDS: *Go Tell it on the Mountain #290 v. 1*

Refrain

**Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!**

**1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *Refrain***

FOURTH LESSON: Luke 2: 8-14

PROCESSION OF ANGELS: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing #270 v. 1*

**1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

FIFTH LESSON: Luke 2:15-20

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Leigh Ann Jacobs

MESSAGE Pastor Chon Pugh

HYMN: *Joy to the World* #267 v. 1 & 2

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

CHRISTMAS CREED

ALL: WE BELIEVE in Jesus Christ and his gospel, born to us all so long ago in Bethlehem of Judea.
WE BELIEVE in Him whose birth glorified Bethlehem, but for whom there was no room in the inn.
WE BELIEVE in Him whose guiding Star brought together to his Manger the humble Shepherds and the Wise Men.
WE BELIEVE in Him whose guiding Star can bring together in his Name the humble and the wise everywhere.
WE BELIEVE in Him who walked among the common people, and who was welcomed by those with open minds and yearning hearts, whom the poor, the oppressed, the discouraged, the sick and afflicted, welcomed and accepted as their Lord and Savior.
WE BELIEVE in Him whose life changed the course of history, over whom kings had no power, whose life humbled the proud, toppled the mighty, and elevated those of low degree.
WE BELIEVE in Him whose love changed human hearts for the better, and whose life and death on the Cross proved that it is more important to serve than to be served, and that the greatest are those who give their lives in service to others.
WE BELIEVE in Him who is the Prince of Peace, whose spirit makes for justice and peace among all peoples, everywhere.
WE BELIEVE that the Christmas spirit - the spirit of Christ - is the spirit that can change the world for the better through the power of life, faith, and hope.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: Joy to the world...
ALL: The Lord has come.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: And also with you.

CALL TO OFFERING

LR: In abundance we have been blessed. Let us reflect on how we might share our gifts of tithes, time, and talent.

OFFERTORY MUSIC & COLLECTION OF OFFERING

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD IN SONG

Oh, Holy Night Sage Haven

***DOXOLOGY**

**All: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***OFFERING PRAYER**

P: God of wonder,

All: 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.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

***PREFACE**

P: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: ... And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

ALL: Holy, holy, holy are you, God of power and might, heaven and earth are filled with your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

***BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

P: ... For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

***LORD'S PRAYER:**

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

***LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

Guitar Instrumental Danny Pugh

***HYMN:**

Silent Night, Holy Night #281 (v. 1 - 2)

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,
all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your
peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

***BENEDICTION**

P: Jesus is the Word made flesh in our midst. May his incarnation fill your hearts with joy and peace.

All: Amen.

P: Jesus is the promised Savior, born of Mary. May his birth among us renew your hope.

All: Amen.

P: Jesus is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. May the gift of his presence bring forth rejoicing.

All: Amen.

P: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

All: Amen.

SENDING

P: This service has ended. Our service now begins.

All: We grow in faith, connect with the lost, and help those in need.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE