

# The Order of Worship

## Christmas Eve

December 24, 2018

6:00 p.m.

(✠Please stand, if able. Please refrain from applause tonight until after the Benediction.)

PRELUDE *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* Diane Bish  
*On Christmas Night All Christians Sing* Michael Bedford  
*Joy to the World* ANTIOCH  
*Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella* David Cherwien  
*In the Bleak Midwinter* Gustav Holst

OPENING SENTENCES John 1:1-5, 14 (p.91 (NT))  
MEDITATION: "God the Redeemer" by Susan Palo Cherwien

INTROIT *Once in Royal David's City* IRBY  
(stanza 1)  
Gracie Kate Bates, solo

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING Barnes family  
Glory to you, almighty God, for you sent your only-begotten Son, that we might have new life. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for you became flesh and dwelt among us that we might become your people. Glory to you, Holy Spirit, for you direct and rule our lives. Glory to you, almighty God, and to your Son, Jesus Christ, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever!

**Amen!**

We have watched and we have waited for Christ's coming, **in hope, for peace, in joy, and with love. Now our redemption draws near!**

Tonight, we light the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love. [*Four candles around the ring are lit.*] And, finally, we light the Christ candle. [*Then the center white candle is lit.*] "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."** (Isa. 9:2)

Let us walk in the light of the Lord!

**Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia! Amen!**

✠CAROL 133 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* ADESTE FIDELES

✠OPENING PRAYER

SONG *O Holy Night* Adolphe Adam  
Janet Carmichael, soloist

THE FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 52:7-10 (p.683 (OT))  
MEDITATION: "Calling Into the Present"  
by Susan Palo Cherwien

CAROL 143 *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* REGENT SQUARE

THE SECOND LESSON: Isaiah 9:2-7 (p.638 (OT))  
MEDITATION: "The Word is Light" by Susan Palo Cherwien

CAROL 113 *Angels We Have Heard on High* GLORIA

THE THIRD LESSON: Isaiah 40:1-5 (p.667 (OT))  
MEDITATION: "Glory" by Susan Palo Cherwien

CAROL 121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* ST. LOUIS

THE FOURTH LESSON: Micah 5:2-4 (p.865 (OT))  
MEDITATION: "Birth" by Susan Palo Cherwien

CAROL 115 *Away in a Manger* MUELLER

THE FIFTH LESSON: Luke 1:26-38 (p.56 (NT))  
MEDITATION: "Mary, Nazareth Girl" by Ann Weems

CAROL 145 *What Child Is This?* GREENSLEEVES

THE SIXTH LESSON: Luke 2:1-20 (p.58 (NT))  
MEDITATION: "Glory, We Sing" by Susan Palo Cherwien

✠CAROL 119 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* MENDELSSOHN

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and  
THE LORD'S PRAYER p.35 in hymnal

THE SEVENTH LESSON: Matthew 2:1-11 (p.2 (NT))  
MEDITATION: "The One-Star Night" by Ann Weems

*Beautiful Star of Bethlehem*  
Perri and Dan Walden

(Those who are able will gather in a circle around the sanctuary. Please do not go behind the pulpit.)

✦THE SHARING OF THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

O Lord, you have given us Jesus, who is the light of the world.

**Help us to bring the light of Christ to a weary world.**

Where people are lost in sin,

**Help us to bring the light of Christ.**

Where there is despair and hopelessness, where there is sadness and grief,

**Help us to bring the light of Christ.**

Where there is sickness and suffering, where there is violence, hatred, prejudice, cruelty, and domination,

**Help us to bring the light of Christ.**

O Lord, so fill us with your love, your peace, and your goodness that doubt and mistrust may be dispelled within us and we may be Christ's light in a world of strife.

**Amen.**

✦CAROL (insert) *Silent Night, Holy Night* STILLE NACHT

*(Everyone is invited to pass the light of Christ to each other as we sing "Silent Night, Holy Night". In doing this, we remember that we are called to share the light of Christ with each other and beyond. We are to shine like stars, leading others to worship the Christ.*

*\*\*Please tilt the unlit candle toward the lit candle to avoid spilling wax.)*

✦CHIMING OF THE BELLS *(Please extinguish your candles)*

✦CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (see insert)

*Joy to the World*

ANTIOCH

✦BENEDICTION

May the smile of God warm us,

**may the light of Jesus lead us,**

and may the Holy Spirit blaze in our lives and fill us with love—

**tonight, tomorrow, and forever. Alleluia! Amen!**

✦POSTLUDE *Angels We Have Heard on High* J. Westenkuehler

***Worship Leaders***

The Rev. Steven Barnes, Interim Pastor

Adriane Ivey

Sophia Hawley

Alice Walker, organ

Loucy Hay, piano

Ken Walker, sound technician