

# The Order of Worship

## Christmas Eve

December 24, 2019

6:00 p.m.

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

PRELUDE *Angels from the Realms of Glory* REGENT SQUARE  
*On Christmas Night All Christians Sing* Michael Bedford  
*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* IN DULCI JUBILO

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 Will & Kimmy Briggs

In this season of Advent, we are here to watch and wait and pray for the coming of light into the world. We long for the day when the things of darkness—selfishness and greed, suffering and oppression—shall be no more.

**Lord, by your presence, light up the past, that, through our remembering, we might learn from it with thankfulness and live more richly in the present.**

Light up the present, that, through our seeing, we might live in it with love and actively shape the future.

**Light up the future, that, through our anticipating, we might prepare for it in hope and know the joy of your coming Kingdom.**

As we watch and wait and pray, may we be always ready to encounter the Lord who is already and always with us.

**Amen.**

Tonight, we light the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love. [Three blue candles and one pink candle around the ring are lit.] And, finally, we light this candle for the newborn Christ, reawakening hope and faith—the Word embodied for our time. [The center candle is lit.]

**God amongst us, born as one of us, may we live in the light of your presence, the Light who gives life to all.**

God, as we receive your promise —  
**you are light, you are hope!**

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

♣ OPENING PRAYER

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

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

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

THE SECOND LESSON: Isaiah 11:1-9 (p.640 (OT))  
MEDITATION  
"Three Parts of the Season" by Susan Palo Cherwien

CAROL 113 *Angels We Have Heard on High* GLORIA

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

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

THE FOURTH LESSON: Matthew 1:18-25 (p.1 (NT))  
MEDITATION: "Dreams" by Susan Palo Cherwien

CAROL 115 *Away in a Manger* MUELLER

THE FIFTH LESSON: Luke 1:26-38 (p.56 (NT))  
MEDITATION:  
"The Word Became Flesh" by Susan Palo Cherwien

CAROL 145 *What Child Is This* GREENSLEEVEES

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

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

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 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* David Cherwien