



## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

A Festival of Lessons, Carols, Communion, and Candlelight  
December 24, 2020

### GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE *"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"* M. Hayes

CHRIST CANDLE LIGHTING (see purple insert) Kurt Thomas, Zoe Mabry Nauta, Congregants

CHRIST CANDLE HYMN #134 *"Joy to the World"* verse 1 only

\*OPENING HYMN #133 (see purple insert) *"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

### CALL TO CONFESSION and PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Joy, we come to celebrate again the arrival of Love Incarnate here in our very midst. Your glorious arrival is enough to cause the forests to sing for joy, yet we still find reasons to complain and sigh.

*(A moment for contemplative confession)*

Your light of salvation is bright enough to illuminate every corner of our lives, yet we still find ourselves shrouded in worry and doubt.

*(A moment for contemplative confession)*

Your gift of Love is big enough for the whole world, yet we still find ourselves resentful that your love extends to those whom we deem to be unworthy.

*(A moment for contemplative confession)*

God, you invite us into the light of the stable where the overlooked and forgotten have gathered to celebrate the miracle of your love. Give us the strength and courage to join you at the manger. Amen.

### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AT THE FONT

## PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**FIRST LESSON Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19**

*God announces in the Garden of Eden Adam and Eve's punishment for their rebellion and that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.*

Carol #82, *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*

**SECOND LESSON Genesis 22:15-18**

*God promises to Abraham that by his descendants all the nations of the earth will obtain blessings.*

Carol #88, *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,"* vs 1 & 6

**THIRD LESSON Isaiah 9:2,6-7**

*The prophet announces the birth of a king to a people in darkness.*

Carol #129, *"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming,"* vs 1-2

**FOURTH LESSON Isaiah 11:1-9**

*The king is coming and will usher in a reign of justice for the poor and peace for all God's creation.*

Carol #121, *"O Little Town of Bethlehem,"* vs 1-3

**FIFTH LESSON Luke 1:26-35,38**

*The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary that she will give birth to God's promised Son, whose kingdom will never end.*

Carol #98, *"To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary,"* vs 1-2

**SIXTH LESSON Luke 2:1-7**

*Against a backdrop of emperors and taxes, Jesus is born.*

Carol #115, *"Away in a Manger"*

**SEVENTH LESSON Luke 2:8-16**

*The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world and find him lying in a manger.*

Carol #119, *"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"*

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*"O, Holy Night"*

**MEDITATION**

*"A Christmas Unlike Any Other"*

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**OFFERTORY INVITATION**

**\*DOXOLOGY** *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.*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

**INVITATION**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**Minister: The Lord be with you.**

**Congregation: And also with you.**

**Minister: Lift up your hearts.**

**Congregation: We lift them up to the Lord.**

**Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.**

**Congregation: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

...

**Minister: This we pray, in Jesus' name, and the prayer he taught his disciples to pray, saying:**

**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.**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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**Participants in worship:**

**Pastor Angie Mabry**

**Zoe Mabry Nauta – Liturgist**

**Marcy Lasseter – Organist / Pianist**

**Richard Klein, Sherri Godsey – Editing**

**Kurt Thomas – Liturgist / Soloist**

**Sophia Mabry Nauta - Liturgist**

**Richard Klein, David Buyze – A/V**