

Christmas Eve Service 2022

Prelude and Chimes

Reading: John 1:1-18

Rev. Clara

***Lighting the Advent Candles and the Christ Candle**

Karen Jones

Leader: Tonight we relight the four Advent candles and recall what the good news means.

People: We remember hope, peace, love, and joy. We remember the words of the prophet Isaiah:

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Leader: Jesus Christ is the greatest gift who makes all gifts possible. So, we light the Christ Candle now, as we think about what Christ's coming means to each one of us.

***Hymn #1: "O Come, All You Faithful"**

(Green book)

***Invocation**

We come before you in awe, O God, freshly aware of your glory and your love embodied in the midst of this world. Here among the dirt and straw, amid the noise of cattle and labor of birth, we perceive your work. We dare to believe it is you, God, coming to be among us in Jesus, and so we praise you with songs of joy. Glory be to you, O God, now and forever. Amen.

The Christmas Story in Scripture and Song

Micah 5:2-6

Reader: Jim Miers

***Hymn #7: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

(Green book)

Isaiah 40:1-5

Reader: Stacy Hindalong

Anthem

Luke 2:1-7

Reader: Lynn Hull

***Hymn #8: "What Child Is This, Who, Laid to Rest"**

(Green book)

Time for Young Disciples

Luke 2:8-20

Reader: Carol Bellamy

***Hymn #5:** “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”

(Green book)

Matthew 2:1-12

Reader: Jan Derry

***Hymn #6:** “Angels, From the Realms of Glory”

(Green book)

Offering

Anthem

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

**There are so many things
to be thankful for tonight, God.
Receive these tokens of our gratitude
for your love incarnate
in the babe of Bethlehem.
May they become God-with-us for all the world.
May they breathe magic back into a world
that needs a sense of wonder and joy.**

Scripture for Meditation: Isaiah 9:2-7

Meditation: “Tell Me Child”

(attached at the end of the bulletin)

***Christmas Prayer**

**O wondrous God of the stars,
we come tonight with breathless wonder
to see the babe who will change our lives.
We hear the names “Wonderful Counselor,”
“Mighty God,” “Prince of Peace,”
and we are in awe.
You have touched the earth this night
with your unconditional love.
Touch us—
touch our hearts and minds and souls.
May we never tire of this story.
May we never take it for granted.
Make this night magical again.**

***Lord's Prayer**

Service of Candlelight

As the candlelight is passed on from one to another, the person receiving the lit turns the wick to the flame while the person passing the light holds their candle upright

***Hymn #2: "Silent Night"**

(Green book)

*Benediction

***Closing Hymn #4: "Joy to the World"**

(Green book)

*Postlude

Tell Me Child

Wonderful Counselor
Mighty God
Everlasting Father
Prince of Peace

Birthing cries disrupt the silence.
Hope wrapped in infant size

Tell us, child, your name, we ask you.

Some call me Wonderful Counselor
Storyteller about God's Love
Guide to the lost, the lonely ones
Listener to unsaid words
Comforter in desperate times
Some call me Wonderful Counselor

Tell us, child, your name, we ask you.

Some call me Mighty God
Present in creation's awakening
Birthed on earth in human's guise
Healer of the broken-spirited
Repairer of the breach

Some call me Mighty God

Tell us, child, your name, we ask you.

Some call me Everlasting Father
What was and is and is to be
Pointing to our God forever
Seeking out the wayward children
Now and always without ending

Some call me Everlasting Father

Tell us, child, your name.

Some call me Prince of Peace.
Wholeness of the mind and body
Reconciling bonds made strong
Hateful words give way to kindness
Wars to cease as Love prevails

Some call me Prince of Peace

Hopes and dreams burst forth among us
Bethlehem to Risen Lord

Tell me child what is this that happened?
Christ the Lord is born this day.