



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Christmas Eve | December 24, 2021

(*Indicates where it is appropriate, but not necessary, to stand.
All speak words in **boldface**.)

❖ Called by God We Gather ❖

GATHERING MUSIC & WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Gather and greet each other in joy.)

CALLED TO WORSHIP IN RINGING THE TRINITY AND IN MUSIC

Still, Still, Still

arr. Joey Hoelscher

Lynn Auman, violin; Chad Hammer, cello

OPENING SENTENCES GATHERED AROUND THE CHRIST CANDLE

Jim & Sarah, Betsy & Powell Braddock, liturgists

During Advent, as the light on our wreath grew,
the hope in our hearts rekindled as we remembered:

Our hope is in God. ☩

That hope is like light shining in the darkness, ☩
to be shared with all in need, ☩

and proclaimed to everyone, everywhere. ☩

Our time of waiting comes to an end. ☩

Tonight we are excited. Tonight we are expectant.

Tonight we are blessed with hope beyond hope.

A child has been born for us,

a Son has been given to us.

We are not alone. God is with us.

Tonight, we come to behold and adore him,

Christ, the Lord!

*CAROL #133
w. 1, 3, & 4

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

We pray this prayer aloud, as our hearts lift
all of our cares and joys to you this night.

(Silent prayer)

in the name of Jesus, our Emmanuel. Amen.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE Carol #119, vv. 1 & 3

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

❖ **To Hear God's Story of Grace** ❖

ON THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM

Lesson from Luke 2:1-7

Duet *O Little Town of Bethlehem*. Al Roberts
Lynn Auman, violin; Chad Hammer, cello

MEANWHILE, IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Lesson from Luke 2:8-12

*Carol

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

HOPE ARRIVES - EMMANUEL

Lesson from Luke 2:13-20

Manger Carols (*Sung seated*)

#113, v. 3, *Angels We Have Heard on High*

#115, v. 1, *Away in a Manger*

Anthem *The Hands that First Held Mary's Child*

Dan Forrest

Women's Chancel Choir; Chad Hammer, cello

The hands that first held Mary's child were hard from working wood.

From boards they sawed and planed and filed and splinters they withstood.

This day they gripped no tool of steel, they drove no iron nail,

but cradled from the head to heel our Lord, newborn and frail.

*When Joseph marveled at the size of that small breathing frame, and gazed
upon those bright new eyes and spoke the infant's name, the angel's words he
once had dreamed poured down from heaven's height, and like the host of
stars that beamed blessed earth with welcome light.*

"This child shall be Emmanuel, not God upon the throne, but God with us, Emmanuel, as close as blood and bone." The tiny form in Joseph's palms confirmed what he had heard, and from his heart rose hymns and psalms for heaven's human word.

The tools that Joseph laid aside a mob would later lift and use with anger, fear, and pride to crucify God's gift. Let us, O Lord, not only hold the child who's born today, but charged with faith may we be bold to follow in His way.

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❖ To Respond in Faith with Gratitude ❖

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Hymn of Invitation

Come and Gather at the Stable

NETTLETON

***Come and gather, at the stable they have journeyed far from home
Mary, Joseph, young and able travelled ways as yet unknown
With a dream of untold promise that great things would come to pass
In the sureness of God's blessing they found peace and rest as last.***

***Come and gather, 'round the manger where the Christ child gently lays.
Open up our hearts to wonder at the glory of that day.
Visit him with thanks and promise, peace and hope and love and joy
Take them daily into living wrapped up in a baby boy.***

***Come and gather, at the table where we seek him once again
Let us enter into mystery needed now as much as then.
In the breaking of the sweet bread in the pouring of the wine,
We meet him again among us with a love so dear, divine.***

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Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

.....

(Sung seated)

***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.***

.....

(Sung seated)

***So bring him incense, gold and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy! Joy! For Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.***

.....

Hear our prayers, O God,
and in your mercy, answer.

We pray these things,
trusting in God's faithfulness revealed:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

(Sung seated)

***Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spears shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.***

Words of Institution

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Communion

After Communion Prayer

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.**

❖ To Depart Blessed to Serve ❖

LIGHTING THE DARKNESS (John 1:1-5, Matthew 5:14-16)

This is the light that has entered the world.

This is the word that we carry in our heart:

**Let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works
and give glory to to your Father in heaven.**

As we prepare to leave this place, this time of worship
may it be true of each of us, to the depths of our souls, when we say:

**We have celebrated Christmas with Mary and Joseph.
We have rejoiced with the angels and the shepherds.**

We have celebrated the birth of Christ Jesus, our Lord.

We are graced by the wonder of God's presence.

We are filled with the tenderness of Christ's love.

**We are ready to carry the light and life of God
into the world. Amen.**

*CAROL

Silent Night

STILLE NAUCHT

(To be lit, the unlit candle is tilted into the lit candle.

Lit candles always remain upright.)



***Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.***

***Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!"***

***Silent night, holy night! Son of God, Love's pure light.
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord at thy birth! Jesus, Lord at thy birth.***

***Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.***

TEXT: Joseph Mohr, 1816; stanzas 1-3, English trans. John Freeman Young, 1863; stanza 4, English trans. Jane Montgomery Campbell, 1863, alt. P.D.
MUSIC: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818 P.D.

*BENEDICTION AND CHARGE

CLOSING MUSIC



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