

Christmas Eve
December 24th, 2015

Order of Service

CALL TO WORSHIP/OPENING PRAYER

M: Oh gracious and almighty Father, we praise you that you kept your ancient promises by sending your everlasting Son in human flesh.

C: On this holy night, receive our thanks and devotion, our songs and prayers.

M: You sent Jesus as a lowly child to demonstrate your concern for all — the weak and lonely, the troubled and frightened, the timid and helpless. No one is overlooked by your ever-seeking eyes. No one is excluded from your upholding arms. No one is denied the comfort and help of your outstretched hand.

C: Bless us with a childlike faith in the divine assurance that you love and care for us always.

M: You sent Jesus as the Savior of the world to deliver all from the curse of sin, the power of death, and torment of hell. He took our place. He was born under the law to set us free. He became the innocent lamb of sacrifice. He came to die and rise again in order that we might live eternally. Firmly implant this good news in our hearts, and fill us with an eager desire to spread the Word concerning what we hear tonight.

C: May all who hear the message, in every nation under heaven, be amazed and believe what is told them about this child.

M: You sent Jesus as the Light of the world to drive out all darkness that would rob us of the full life that you intend for us. May the “joy that will be for all people” be our joy. May the “peace on earth to all on whom his favor rests” be our peace. May the treasure that Mary pondered in her heart be our treasure.

C: For today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to us. He is Christ the Lord. Amen.

HYMN: #55 *Oh, Come All Ye Faithful*

Confession of Sins

M: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: Who made heaven and earth.

M: Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.” As we have gathered to celebrate our Savior’s birth, let us confess our need for that Savior.

M: Almighty God, our heavenly Father,

C: We have sinned against you

in our thoughts,

in our words,

in our deeds,

and in all that we have not done.

Forgive us in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Deliver and restore us,

that we may rest in peace.

M: By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in him we are forgiven. Let us rest in the peace that his birth brings us that we may be restored to serve him in newness of life.

C: Amen.

HYMN: # 61 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

The Word

The First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Among some of the harshest judgment on Israel’s apostasy come these words of comfort for the faithful. The darkness of sin will be scattered. A light will dawn. He will be everything the LORD has promised.

HYMN: #54 *Where Shepherds Lately Knelt*

The Epistle Reading: Titus 2:11-14

Just as Israel longed for the coming of the Messiah, so we long for the coming again of the Christ. The babe of Bethlehem has come; the fight is won; victory is assured. Now we live in his light until he comes again in glory.

HYMN: #52 *On Christmas Night All Christians Sing*

The Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-20

The time had come for God to fulfill what had been spoken of through the prophets. With the birth of Jesus, light shone in darkness. Heavenly messengers and the glory of the Lord tell of his birth.

HYMN: #36 *A Great and Mighty Wonder*

SERMON

Theme: "Do Not Be Afraid, it's Christmas!"

Luke 2:8-11

HYMN: #43 1,4 *To Thee My Heart I Offer*

Thanksgiving

OFFERING

HYMN: #60 *Silent Night*

CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN: #63 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN: #46 *Your Little Ones Dear Lord, Are We*

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2015