

2023 Christmas Eve Service of Light

Prelude

Land Acknowledgement

Welcome & Announcements

Carol O Come All Ye Faithful VU 60 (1,3,4,5)

Gathering Prayer/Lighting the Advent Wreath & Christ Candle

God of new life, our world seems weary.

We wonder, how does a weary world rejoice and;

hold onto hope, practice peace, offer joy and spread love?

How do we and the weary world overcome troubles?

How do we and the weary world shine a light into the darkest night?

Loving God, we know we can do all these things with your help.

For tonight, your holy child is born in Bethlehem.

Tonight, Christ draws near.

Tonight, we celebrate the light Jesus brings into the world.

Tonight we light the Christ Candle.

Tonight, Eternal God we are not alone. You are with us.

Love has drawn close. Tonight we rejoice!

For you love this weary world and you love us.

Amen.

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

Carol Go Tell It on the Mountain VU 43

The Christmas Story

(Please remain seated for the singing of the carols)

- Scripture** Luke 1:46-55
- Reflection** *Mary Sings of Hope*
- Carol** **The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy** **VU 73**
- Scripture** Matthew 1: 18-24a
- Reflection** *Joseph – What Is He All About?*
- Carol** **Joy to the World**
- Scripture** Luke 2: 1-7
- Special Music** **In the Bleak Mid-Winter** with Emma Etheridge
- Scripture** Luke 2: 8-20
- Reflection** *Bethlehem & Riverview – not so different*
- Carol** **It Came upon the Midnight Clear** **VU 44 (1,3,4)**
- Scripture** Matthew 2: 1-12
- Reflection** *Wise Ones, Scientists, Poets, Everyday People*
- Carol** **Angels We Have Heard on High** **VU 38 (1,3,4)**
- Responding to the Christmas Story**

We Pray for God's World

God of life, today the world is reborn with the birth of Jesus. We thank you for the gift of your Child, who came to show us your way.

Refrain O Little Town of Bethlehem VU 64 (1)

God of Love, you are the guardian of the poor. Many children are being born tonight in places no better than the stable in Bethlehem. We pray for them...

Refrain O Little Town of Bethlehem VU 64 (2)

God of comfort, we thank you that we have a warm place to gather, and friends and family to care for us. We pray for all who are sick, lonely, in trouble, or afraid, that they may find healing and comfort.

Refrain O Little Town of Bethlehem VU 64 (3)

God among us, in the birth of Jesus you show us your hope for the world and the way of peace. We pray for each other, that we may be bearers of your peace filled with the hope of new life now and always. Amen.

Refrain O Little Town of Bethlehem VU 64 (4)

Sharing the Light of Christ (as we light our candles and the church lights are dimmed, we will sing Silent Night)

Carol: Silent Night, Holy Night VU 67

Commissioning & Benediction

Postlude