

Today in the town of David
a Saviour has been born to you.



He is the Messiah, the Lord.

Our Worship of God

December 24, 2015

11:00 pm

(† Indicates those who are able, please stand.)

— Christmas Eve —

“The Road to Bethlehem”

Prelude Music

Deb Carr and Colleen Ostercamp

†Processional Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
and drive away the shades of night,
and pierce the clouds and bring us light!
Rejoice! rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations, bind

all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;
fill all the world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

†Call to Worship (responsive)

Norma Fair

The Lord has done great things for us!

And we are filled with joy!

God has turned our weeping into singing,

our tears into songs of joy!

Child of Bethlehem, come anew into our hearts this night,

and remain in us forever.

(Based on Psalm 126)

†Invocation

The Lighting of the Advent Candles

Anne Bills, David Jacobs,
Debbie Jacobs, Amanda Stone

Luke 1:46-55

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise be to Christ.

Rejoice! rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

An Advent Prayer (unison)

Come, Emmanuel God, in whatever way you will.

*Be light that guides us
trembling toward the manger,*

*dazzles us into irrational love,
and shines hope into the world's forgotten places.
Little by little, gives us Light in its completeness
until at last we see you face to face.
O come, O come, Emmanuel.*

—Sharlande Sledge

Rejoice! rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

The Music of Christmas

Cole and Lexie Kieffer

One Small Child

The Christmas Story

David Chang

Luke 2:1-20

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise be to Christ.

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

The Kausler Family
Barry, Sheila, Raquel, Jordan, Holden

†Hymn of Joy 146

Joy to the World

Christmas Prayer

Yvette Chambers and Michael McEntyre

*When the world was dark
and the city was quiet,
you came.*

*You crept in beside us.
And no one knew.
Only the few who dared to believe
that God might do something different.
Will you do the same this Christmas, Lord?*

*Will you come into the darkness of tonight's world;
not the friendly darkness
as when sleep rescues us from tiredness,
but the fearful darkness, in which people have
stopped believing
that war will end
or that food will come
or that a government will change
or that the Church cares?*

*Will you come into that darkness
and do something different
to save your people from death and despair?*

*Will you come into the quietness of this town,
not the friendly quietness
but the fearful silence when the phone has not rung
the letter has not come,
the friendly voice no longer speaks,
the doctor's face says it all?*

*Will you come into that darkness,
and do something different,
not to distract, but to embrace your people?*

*And will you come into the dark corners
and the quiet places of our lives?*

*We ask this not because we are guilt-ridden
or want to be,
but because the fullness our lives long for
depends upon us being as open and vulnerable to you
as you were to us, when you came,
wearing no more than diapers,
and trusting human hands*

to hold their maker.

*Will you come into our lives,
if we open them to you
and do something different?*

*When the world was dark
and the city was quiet
you came.
You crept in beside us.*

Do the same this Christmas, Lord.

Do the same this Christmas.

Amen.

The Music of Christmas

Still, Still — Arr. Wilberg
Lindsey and Frank Fleschner, Andrew and Katherine Lang, Ed Rollins

Message

The Manger

Carol McEntyre

†Hymn 173

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Observance of Holy Communion

(All who wish to follow Christ are welcome to the Lord's table during the observance of communion. Church membership is not the issue; discipleship is. We will partake of the supper in front of the chancel area. Please progress row by row down the center aisle and return to your seats from the side aisles.)

The Music of Christmas

O Holy Night

†Sharing the Light of Christmas

(The congregation will form a circle around the sanctuary and receive light from one another. When lighting your candle, it is best to tip the unlit candle towards the flame of the lighted candle.)

*Christ, the light of the world, gives each one of us light,
so that we too may shine with gratitude, hope, and love.
Receive the light that comes to you: it comes from the Christ candle,
but it reaches you only through your neighbors.
Receive the light from a brother or sister in Christ.
Hold the light, enjoy the light, and be thankful.*

†Hymn of the Nativity

Silent Night

***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.***

†Benediction

*O Come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!
Blow out your candles now,
but take the light and peace of Christ with you out into the world.*



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