

Pastor: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Pour out your Spirit on these your gifts of bread and fruit of the vine. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your faithful disciples, showing your love to the whole world.

All people: To God our Maker, Christ our Lord, and to the Holy Spirit be glory and honor, now and forevermore. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS

RESPONSE OF PRAISE AND PRAYER

All people: Almighty God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the one true Light of the World, Jesus Christ, the Holy Child of Bethlehem. In your Word and Sacrament, we have seen him and know that your promises are true. Send us forth from this faith community to live in hope, peace, joy, and love until we gather again. This we ask in the name of Emmanuel, God-with-us. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

HYMN *Silent Night* **Blue Hymnal, #145**

*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 sign 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, our Savior, is born, Christ, our Savior, is born!*

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Welcome, Holy Child, your presence in the world and in our lives transforms us. Beloved of God, before we go forth from this peaceful place, let us take a good look around us - at one another. See what beauty is revealed in the great diversity among us in the light of Christ! (*Congregation looks around to see the light of Christ shining on and through ALL God's people*)

Pastor: Those who walked in darkness, have seen a Great Light! May you now go forth to bear the Light of Christ's hope, peace, joy, and love to ALL you meet!

All people: May it be so. Amen!

POSTLUDE

December 24, 2024
Christmas Eve Service – 7 PM

PREWORSHIP MUSIC GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS PRELUDE & CANDLELIGHTING

Mr. Kevin Crone
Rev. Laura C. Baker
Acolyte

Sheep May Safely Graze (J.S. Bach/Rogers) **CHANCEL CHOIR**

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Luke 2)

Pastor: To the shepherds the angels said:

*All people: "Do not be afraid, for see,
I am bringing you good news of great joy for ALL the people."*

Pastor: ALL the people...

*All people: ALL who walk in darkness –
come see a great Light!*

Pastor: ALL who hope to see God,
come see the glory of our savior, Jesus the Christ!

*All people: ALL who are simply waiting to see what's next,
come see the good news God brings.*

Pastor: The baby born this night is the Light that shines in the darkness,
and the darkness does not and cannot ever overcome it.

All people: Joy to the World!

Pastor: The Lord is come!

*All people: JOY TO THE WORLD!
This IS Good News of great joy for ALL people!*

HYMN *Joy to the World* **Blue Hymnal, # 143**

(The congregation may be seated)

ADVENT WREATH LIGHT

Pastor: Lighting a candle is a simple yet profound act. It is a testimony to the power of light over darkness.

Liturgist: Something we will experience in even greater fullness later during the service when we will all light candles.

Pastor: But in this moment, we will light the candles on the Advent wreath.

Liturgist: Four weeks ago we began our journey toward Christmas. The first week, we lit the Candle of Hope. The second week, the Candle of Peace added its light to the first.

Pastor: The third week, the light burned even brighter with the addition of the Candle of Joy. This past Sunday, the Candle of Love made the Advent wreath shine it's brightest to date

All people: Tonight, we add the light of the Christ Candle. As the biggest and brightest light shines, we remember Jesus' words, "I am the Light of the World. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but have the Light of

Life.”

Pastor: O come, all ye faithful and let us adore Christ, the newborn King!
All people: *Jesus is the Light of the world born for the salvation of all people.*

HYMN *O Come, All Ye Faithful* **Blue Hymnal #148**

CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

All people: *We call you Light, O Lord, yet we walk in darkness. We call you Love yet despise those who are unlike ourselves. We call you Joy yet cling to shame and fear. We call you Peace yet trumpet anger and hostility. We call you our Hope yet communicate gloom and despair . Let the power of your salvation change us into the people we were meant to be, that your light and love may fill our lives forever. May others hear our words and see our actions and thus, desire a deeper relationship with you, and come to know your hope, joy, peace, and love in a profound and eternal, life-changing way. Amen.*

Pastor: Good Christian friends, rejoice! Jesus Christ was born to save!

HYMN OF PRAISE *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* **Blue Hymnal, #164**

(The congregation may be seated, as the children & youth come forward)

JESUS SAID, “LET THE CHILDREN COME”

SERVICE OF HYMN AND CAROLS

FIRST LESSON **Luke 1:26-38**
CAROL *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* **Blue Hymnal, #153**

SECOND LESSON **Luke 2:1-7**
CAROL *Away in a Manger* **Blue Hymnal, #147**

THIRD LESSON **Luke 2:8-12**
CAROL *The First Noel* (Verses 1, 2, & 4, Only) **Blue Hymnal, #151**

FOURTH LESSON **Luke 2:13-16**
CAROL *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* **Blue Hymnal, #150**

FIFTH LESSON **Luke 2:17-20**
CAROL *Angels We Have Heard on High* **Blue Hymnal, #155**

HOMILY **Rev. Laura C. Baker**

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER (Using: sins/those who sin against us)

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: A popular Christmas carol reads, “What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring him a lamb. If I were a wise man, I would do

my part. Yet, what can I give him? I give him, my heart.” One way that we open our hearts to God and God’s work in the world is by giving generously of our time, our talent, and our money. Let us gather our tithes and offerings and may God be glorified.

OFFERTORY

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

DOXOLOGY *What Child is This?* (Verses 3, only) **Blue Hymnal, #162**

OFFERING PRAYER

All people: *Christ our King, this is a season of giving, many of us are in the spirit of giving and yet, if we do not give ourselves to you, our gifts are empty and void of meaning. Help us now, as we gather around the Table that represents your ultimate gift to us, to surrender our lives to worship and serve you fully. Amen.*

(The congregation may be seated)

ANTHEM *Silent Night, Holy Night* (Hughes) **CHANCEL CHOIR**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: **And, also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: Let us pray. With joy, we praise you, Gracious God, for you created all things. You created us in your image and kept covenant with us – even when we rebelled against you. Your prophets promised that you would send a Messiah - to do what we could not do ourselves - provide salvation. In the fullness of time, you sent your Son, Jesus, to be born of Mary; a light to shine in our darkness. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He ate with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw the world to him, yet we neglected to heed his call to walk in love. Then the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you. On the night before he died for us, Jesus was around a table with his disciples. He took bread, gave you thanks, broke it...and gave it to them, saying:

Congregation: **“Take and eat; this is my body, which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”**

Pastor: As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine and said:

Congregation: **“Take and drink. This cup is the new covenant in my blood. It is poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”**