

Communion Music *Away in a Manger*
Dee Dee Gain & Julia Jamieson

Partaking of the Elements

Service of Candlelighting

*Carol *Silent Night, Holy Night* No. 145

1. 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.
2. 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!
3. 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.

(Raise your light)

4. 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.

*Benediction

Postlude *In Dulci Jubilo*
French Carol
arr. Marcel Dupré
Dee Dee Gain

*Join us next Sunday as we begin our Christmas
worship by peeling the bells and singing "Joy to the World"*



Central Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Decatur, Illinois
December 24, 2023

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Harp Concert Julia Jamieson

Greeting Michael E. Karunas

*Call To Worship Patti Swinford

Leader: If you are like Joseph, and you are seeking the truth,

People: There is room for you here.

Leader: If you are like Mary, and you are seeking rest,

People: There is a seat for you here.

Leader: If you are like the wise men, and you are looking for a sign,

People: These candles are here for you.

Leader: If you are like the angels and cannot help but sing,

People: There is a melody for you here.

Leader: Come in. You are in God's house.

People: There is love for all of us here.

*Carol *O Come, All Ye Faithful (vs. 1, 2, 3)* No. 148

*Invocation

A Time for All God's Children Vicky Woolridge

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Leader: Jesus was given the name "Emmanuel" which means "God is with us." In the birth of Jesus, God has torn through the heavens and come down to be with us.

People: Light has invaded our darkness. Hope has been spoken into our uncertainty.

Leader: Just as the shepherds and angels bore witness to the great thing God was doing among them in the birth of the Christ child, may we all continue to tell and share the wonderful things that God is doing in our midst today.

People: As we light the Christ candle, we are ever mindful that Christ's presence comes to dispel darkness; to bring hope; to establish peace; to reflect God's love; and to fill us with joy.

(Light the Christ candle)

Leader: May the presence of our Lord and Savior be with each of us, helping us to imagine and build the new world he has called us to create.

People: Thank you, God, for your great love; for sending Jesus to be our Emmanuel; our "God with us." May the presence of Christ be seen in us, and may we work to bring Christ's presence to a world so in need of your love.

Reading Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 Julie Jones

Reading Matthew 1:18-23 William Frank

Harp Meditation *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Julia Jamieson

Reading Luke 2:1-7 Liz Campbell

Carol *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* No. 163

Reading Luke 2:8-14 Don Martin

Anthem *Still, Still, Still* arr. Luboff

Reading Luke 2:15-20 Dave Phillips

Anthem *Love Came Down at Christmas* Richard Rossi

Reading John 1:1-5, 10-14 Sue Ann Cain

Carol *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* No. 164

Meditation *Christmas Plans*

Invitation to Communion

Words of Institution

Prayer for Bread Karen Wade

Prayer for Cup Janey Lyman