Music for Meditation | Joanne Van Dyke, piano

**Prelude** | We Believe (Singing Time Children's choir)

#### Welcome

#### Call to Worship | Luke 1:68-69

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David.

Trinity Hymnal 203 | Hark! the Herald Angels Sing (with Children's choir)

#### Scripture Reading | Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Trinity Hymnal 231 | Lovely Child, Holy Child

## Scripture Reading | Luke 2:8-14

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring

you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

**Trinity Hymnal 214** | Angels We Have Heard on High (verses 1, 2, 4, 5)

#### Scripture Reading | Luke 2:15-20

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Trinity Hymnal 216 | Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (2nd verse Acapella)

### Congregational Prayer

## Tithes and Offerings followed by Prayer of Dedication

General Fund | Building Fund Song | He Who Is Mighty (sung by Caroline & Callie Roberts, accompanied by Jeron, Blaine, and Sawyer Pasma)

Scripture | Matthew 1:21

Sermon | "The Essence of Christmas" | Pastor Dale Van Dyke

Trinity Hymnal 210 | Silent Night! Holy Night!

**Benediction** 

Adult Choir & Congregation | The Hallelujah Chorus

Silent Prayer | Postlude

# **SERMON**NOTES I

Matthew 1:21 | "The Essence of Christmas"

