



December 23, 2018

Order of Worship

**“It is no use walking anywhere to preach unless our walking is our preaching.”
—St. Francis of Assisi**

Please silence your cell phone.

THE GATHERING AND QUIET PREPARATION

“In Dulci Jubilo”

J.S. Bach

***THE CAROL NO. 238** “Angels We Have Heard on High”

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: This morning we have come to tell again

People: The story of angels and shepherds,

Leader: Of unlikely mothers and doubtful fathers,

People: And babies born in unlikely places.

Leader: This morning we have come to hear again

People: The good, good news

Leader: Of love born among us,

People: Of God here with us.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

(9:30) Haley, Katrina and Ethan Ness

(11:00) Tyler and Mallory Bouque

THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE NO. 242

Verse 1

Love came down at Christmas, Love all Lovely, Love divine;

Love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.

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THE TIME OF WELCOME AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

The Ritual of Friendship folder is located at the center aisle; please sign and pass.

THE ANTHEM

(9:30)

“The Hands that First Held Mary’s Child”

Dan Forrest

Chancel Women

(11:00)

“Carols A-Round”

Carl Nygard

Alumni Choir

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THE COMMISSIONING OF THE CUBA MISSION TEAM (9:30)

THE CALL TO PRAYER

THE UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, help us not to miss the gift Christmas is meant to be. Our expectations and plans can be so rigid that there is no room for you. We have heard the scriptures and stories so often that they are like white noise. For our frenetic pace, for our exhaustion, for our tunnel vision, for our missing the wonder and awe of your presence with us, God, forgive us. Slow our racing thoughts. Still our restless hearts. Create in us room to receive the gifts you bring: hope, peace, joy and love. Amen.

THE SILENT PRAYER

THE WORDS OF GRACE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

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THE OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

THE OFFERTORY

**“Mid-Winter”
Chancel Choir**

Bob Chilcott

***THE DOXOLOGY NO. 94**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

***THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

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***THE CAROL NO. 219**

“What Child Is This”

THE SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:18-25

(Pew Bible pg. 879)

This is God’s living Word for God’s living people. ~ **“Thanks be to God!”**

THE SERMON

The Voices of Advent:

“Joseph”

(Living Love)

Rev. Shawn Lewis-Lakin

***THE CAROL NO. 251**

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

***THE BENEDICTION AND PERIOD OF SILENCE**

Please remain quietly in your pew during the recession of the clergy.

***THE POSTLUDE**

“How Brightly Shine the Morning Star”

Pachelbel

**Congregation Standing*

****Seating of Worshipers*



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