

**WE ARE GATHERED**

Prelude – **AT 5PM: MEDLEY (no singers);**  
**HE HAS COME FOR US (GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN)**

Worship Song: **SONG IN THE AIR**

— *Congregation remains seated*—

**Proclamation of the Birth of Christ** *Band members*

**Cindy:** Many ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in his own image;

**Mike:** long after the great flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant;

**Paisley:** twenty-one centuries from the time the promise was given to Abraham and Sarah;

**Todd:** thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt and Miriam danced in freedom;

**Cindy:** eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges;

**Mike:** one thousand years from the anointing of David as king, in fulfillment of the times and years and months and days discerned by the prophets;

**Paisley:** in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;

**Todd:** the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome; the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; while the whole world enjoyed a span of peace,

**Joel:** Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit and nine months of growth in the womb of his mother—now in our own times is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

<PAUSE> Will the congregation please stand.

## Christmas Greeting

**Cindy:** I bring you good news of great joy for all the people:  
To you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord!

**ALL:** Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace!

## Worship Song – **CHRISTMAS DAY**

### Opening Prayer *from Piano*

**Joel:** Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**ALL:** Amen.

### Christmas Candle Lighting: **Camera @ Wreath, then Cindy**

*"Christ, Be Our Light" Verse 5 & Refrain*

Cindy: Tonight, we light the Christ Candle.

**All: The waiting is over. The Light has come.**

Cindy: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**All: On those who lived in a land of deep darkness—light has shined.**

Cindy: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us.

**All: He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Cindy: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

**All: The light no darkness can overcome.**

Cindy: Let us walk in the light of Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Cindy: *The congregation may be seated.*

## **WE ARE TRANSFORMED**

**Children's Message -- KLL on Center**

**Becca Diehl @ Ambo**

L: The Christmas Gospel according to Saint Luke, the second chapter.

**ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel Reading – Luke 2:1-20 NRSV**

L: <sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Christmas Announcements**

**Let me begin with a Christmas welcome to all who come this evening. Welcome to family and friends who have traveled a distance and to you who come as guests or worship here for a first time.**

**Holy Communion is offered today. All are welcome to come forward for communion who seek the grace of God offered in bread and wine and promise.**

**A gratitude card is included in your bulletin. You may write something you are grateful for and include with your offering during the time of gratitude.**

**A word of thanks to musicians who lead us in worship,**

- To Joel Reeves, the Celebration Band, and the Youth Choir and Bells who lead us in worship. THANK YOU.**
- Thank you to all gave for the poinsettias and those worked behind the scenes to prepare the bulletins and worship space for tonight.**
- A word of instruction:**
  - We will have a lighting of candles when we sing Silent Night Today.**
  - After communion, You can pick up your candle or finger light as you return to your seat. Candles are here at the side aisles and in the back.**
  - tip *only* the unlit candle for lighting and hold the candle upright.**
  - You may keep your candle or leave it at the door following worship.**

**SERMON: Grace and Peace to you from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**SERMON – KATIE @ AMBO**

**SERMON RESPONSE – MIDNIGHT CLEAR**

**Prayers of the Church** *Pastors (2) read prayer petitions*

P: Please stand for the prayers of the church.

**Steve to Ambo / Craig to Altar for Prayers**

*After each petition, please respond with:*

P: Hear Us, O God;

**All: your mercy is great.**

## **Offering *Pastor Craig @ Altar***

**WL:** You may be seated.

- We take a moment to offer our thanks to God.
  - I invite you to use the gratitude card in your bulletin.
  - Place it in the offering plate your gratitude card along with any offering. You can also make an offering electronically.
- Would the ushers please come forward.

## **Offering Song *Youth Choir -Balcony "Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella"* Song **YOUR PRAISE GOES ON****

## **Communion *Craig @ Altar***

**P:** WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

### **P: Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

**P:** You may be seated. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available, just ask the server. The ushers will direct you forward.  
When you return by the side aisle, place your glass in the basket and then pick up a candle for the candle lighting. Finger lights are available for children. All is ready and all are welcome.

**Distribution – *Youth Handbell “Angels We Have Heard on High”***  
**Praise Song – OH HOLY NIGHT**

**Christ is Our Light *Katie @ Wreath***

P: Christ is our Light. The light of Christ shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness does not overtake it. From the Christ Candle,  
we draw light, that we may shine the light of Christ.

Let us pray: God of wonder, in the birth of Jesus we behold the light  
of the world come near. Send us out in joy to share the good news of  
your love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit  
dwelling among us now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

***Katie – lights for Craig/Steve – they light for Ushers***

**Passing of the Light**

Light the candles by turning the unlit candle sideways over the lit  
candle held upright. For finger lights, touch the lit finger light,  
then turn on your light.

***Slowly Fade Down House Lights***

***(wait until the congregation Lights all candles before singing the hymn)***

**Song-Silent Night**

**WE ARE SENT**

**Sending and Blessing *Katie @ Center***

P: Go out this night in joy and hope,  
with the song of the angels on your lips to tell:

**ALL: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.**

P: And the love of God, the light of Christ, and the joy of the Holy Spirit  
abide with you this holy night and forever.

**ALL: Amen.**

***Candles Are extinguished - bring up house lights***

**Sending Song – JOY TO THE WORLD (USPEAKABLE JOY)**

**Dismissal** *Cindy from front-center*

Cindy: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude – medley**