

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025

PRELUDE MUSIC

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

John 1.1-14

OPENING HYMN: "O Come All Ye Faithful" (379)

INVOCATION PRAYER

PAUSING AT THE MANGER

P: Why have you come to the manger?

**C: I am seeking the Christ Child!**

P: Why did the Christ Child come?

**C: To save His people from their sins!**

P: Why did the Christ Child come?

**C: To save ME from my sins!**

P: He came to die.

**C: He came to die FOR ME!**

P: On this Holy Night, we celebrate the birth of this Christ Child, the Savior of all humanity, who was born for us all to take away sin.

SOLO: "O Holy Night"

Aly Eldridge, soloist

P: On this Holy Night, we celebrate the birth of this Christ Child, the Savior of all humanity, who was born for us all. Let us take a moment to confess our sins and recognize that Jesus came to save us from our sins.

CONFESSION OF SINS AND FORGIVENESS

**C: I confess that I am a sinner, O Lord, both by nature and choice. I sin against You each day in thought, word, and deed. I prefer darkness rather than light! But You, O Lord, have brought Your Light into my darkness. You have redeemed me from sin, death, and the power of Satan. Forgive me, O Lord, I pray. Have mercy upon me, Gracious Savior! Restore and renew me through the power of the Holy Spirit.**

**Amen!**

P: Our heavenly Father has loved you with a great love . . . be assured, my friends, your sins are forgiven you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit!

**C: Amen!**

*Please extinguish your candles by either placing your free hand around the candle and blowing lightly or wet the tip of two of your fingers and quickly snuff out the candle.*

PRINCE OF PEACE CHOIR

"Carol of the Bells"

by Peter J. Wilhousky

CHRISTMAS RESPONSORY

P: In the beginning was the Word,

**C: And the Word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us!**

P: We beheld His glory;

**C: The glory of the only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth!**

P: When it was still, when it was midnight

**C: Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne!**

P: And the Word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us!

**C: We beheld His glory, full of grace and truth! Alleluia!**

HYMN OF RESPONSE: "What Child is This?" (370, acc. by Katie Merdassa, flute)

TONIGHT'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Our Old Testament reading is from **Isaiah 9.2-7**. Our Old Testament reading proclaims God's promise of light breaking into darkness, announcing the birth of a child whose reign brings peace without end.

Our Epistle reading is **Titus 3.4-7**. Our Epistle reading declares how God's kindness and mercy have appeared in Jesus Christ, saving us not by our works, but by His grace and renewal through the Holy Spirit.

HYMN: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (380)

***Please stand for the singing of "Hark! The Herald"***

Our Gospel for this Christmas Eve is **Luke 2.1-20**. The birth of Jesus in lowly Bethlehem is one of the signs that shows God's love and favor because He has not abandoned the world to its sin and brokenness.

L: These are the Words of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

HYMN: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (361)

SERMON: Isaiah 9.2-7

PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Congregational response is **"Hear our prayer"**

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

“Away in a Manger” Piano Duet: Noelle Eldridge and Maria Guldeman

PRINCE OF PEACE BELL CHOIR

“Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella”. Arr. Linda R. Lamb

AFFIRMATION OF HOPE

P: To You, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, in  
Your holy Church forever and ever. Amen!

**C (Loudly): CHRIST HAS COME! CHRIST IS RISEN! CHRIST SHALL  
COME AGAIN!**

LIGHTING OF CANDLES

To light your candle, *please tilt the un-lit candle to the lighted candle.*  
*Never tilt the lighted candle*

HYMN OF CONTEMPLATION: “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” (366)

CLOSING PRAYER

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

**C (LOUDLY): AMEN!**

HYMN: “Silent Night” (363, acc. by Grace Stevens, Flute)

*The first verse will be sung in English then we will sing it again in German.*  
*After we sing the first verse in English and German, we will sing the rest of*  
*the song in English*

Pastor: You have come seeking the Christ-child. Tonight, and every day  
may the light of the Christ-child shine forth in your life. May the peace of  
this Christmas Eve be with you! Go in the name of Jesus and with His  
blessing!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

*Please extinguish your candles by either placing your free hand around*  
*the candle and blowing lightly or wet the tip of two of your fingers and*  
*quickly snuff out the candle.*

CHRISTMAS EVE CLOSING HYMN: “Joy to the World” with Brass  
Choir (387)

POSTLUDE MUSIC

*Thank you for joining us to worship the Lord. May God bless you on this*  
*Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Merry CHRISTmas!*