



***Candlelight Service  
December 22, 2024***

# ***Candlelight Service***

***December 22, 2024 – 6:30 PM***

**\* Please rise in body or in spirit**

Prelude

Welcome

**\* Call to Worship**

**Leader:** A voice cries, "In the wilderness  
prepare the way for the Lord;  
make straight in the desert a highway  
for our God."

**People:** **We wait at the manger preparing our hearts  
for Jesus' birth.**

**Leader:** God's love, joy, hope and peace  
flow into our lives through the gift  
of the Christ Child.

**People:** **Tonight we celebrate God's gift of Jesus.**

Choir: "Angels Advent Carol"

Voice from Above:

God's Old Testament story  
looked forward to the coming Messiah.

**Reader 1:** "But you Bethlehem,  
though you are little among the thousands  
of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth  
the One to be ruler in Israel." Micah 5:2

Reader 2: “And it came to pass in those days  
that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus  
that all the world should be registered.  
This census took place while Quirinius  
was governor of Syria. So all went to be registered,  
everyone to his own city.  
Joseph also went up from Galilee,  
out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea,  
to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem,  
because he was of the house and lineage of David,  
to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife,  
who was with child.  
So it was that while they were there  
the days were completed for her to deliver.  
And she brought forth her firstborn Son,  
and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths,  
and laid Him in a manger, because there was  
no room for them in the inn.” Luke 2:1-7

\* Song: LUYH #92 v. 1-4 “Joy to the World”

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come:  
let earth receive her King.  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns:  
let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills,  
and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sin and sorrow grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessing flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Psalm 98; Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), 1719, P.D.;

Music: Lowell Mason, 1948, P.D. CCLI #678905

Offering: Love, INC

Offertory: Ministry of Music: Sunday School Children

Voice from Above:

The prophet Isaiah foretold  
that the Messiah would come as a child.

Reader 3:

“For unto us a Child is born. Unto us a Son is given:  
and the government will be upon His shoulder.  
His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace,”  
Isaiah 9:6

Reader 4:

“Now there were in the same country shepherds  
Living out in the fields keeping watch over their flock  
by night.  
And behold! An angel of the Lord stood before them  
and the glory of the Lord shone round about them,  
and they were greatly afraid.  
Then the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid,  
for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy  
which shall be to all the people.  
For unto you is born this day in the city of David  
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.  
And this shall be a sign to you: you will find the babe  
wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.’  
Then suddenly there was with the angel  
a multitude of the heavenly host praising God  
and saying: ‘Glory to the God in the highest,  
and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!’  
When the angels had gone away from them  
into heaven then the shepherds said to one another,

‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing  
that the Lord has made known to us.’  
They came with haste and found Mary and Joseph  
and the Babe lying in a manger.  
And when they had seen Him,  
they made widely known the saying  
which was told them concerning the Child.”  
Luke 2:8-17

Voice from Above:

Like the shepherds, our response to Jesus’ birth  
is to stand amazed, to lift our voices in praise,  
and to share the good news.

\* Hymn: LUYH #82 v. 1-3 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

1. Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o’er the plains  
and the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains.

*Refrain*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heavenly song?

*Refrain*

3. Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

*Refrain*

*Words: French, 18th c.; tr. Crown of Jesus Music, 1862, alt., P.D.: Music: French,  
18<sup>th</sup> c. P.D; CCLI #678905*

Scripture Reading: Romans 6:23, Romans 8:31-39

Prayer of Illumination

Message: "The Gift of Jesus"

Time of Prayer

Voice from Above:

It wasn't just nearby shepherds  
who heard the good news;  
wise men followed his star from the far east.

Choir: "Carol of the Newborn King"

Benediction

\* Closing Carol: "*Peace, Peace*" with "*Silent Night! Holy Night*"

- Choir/Congregation

Silent Night! Holy Night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
'Round you virgin  
mother and child!  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.

**As Christians around the world rejoice in Christ's birth, we *welcome* you to worship with us tonight. God revealed his great love for us by sending Jesus to earth to save us. After joining us in worship, join us in the fellowship hall next to the sanctuary for a cup of coffee or juice, Christmas goodies and continued fellowship.**