A Christmas Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols and Communion

Welcome
Rev. Kyle Walker

Prelude
String Trio: Mary Alice Rich, violin, Jane Atten, viola and Gretchen Nichols, cello

Invocation
from "Christmas Beatitudes" by David Rhys Williams
Kathy Leslie

*Hymn 148
O Come, All Ye Faithful

Lighting the Advent & Christ Candle
Mark and Linda Wassenich

One: In Advent season each week we have pointed the way to Christmas. We just can’t wait for Peace, Joy, Love, and Hope; these are the touchstones in our journey preparing our hearts for this holy night when we begin again in the spirit of the Child. And so we come to Christmas once again, as have those before us through the centuries, the mighty cloud of witnesses who have lighted our way with their lives of faith, hope and unconditional love.

All: May the lights we burn tonight warm us with memories of their inspiration and their aspirations. May our lives be the Light of this Good News. Peace and joy and hope and love—which never come easy and are easily lost—all come together in the liberating spirit of God.

All: Where peace needs to be born,
All: Where joy needs to be shared,
All: Where hope needs to be found,
All: Where love needs to be shared.

One: We light these candles once again in this Season which reminds us how to live most fully all our days.
All: We light these candles to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world.

Hymn 132
When God Is a Child (refrain)

First Lesson
Luke 2:1-7
Clayton Cunningham

Hymn 147
Away in a Manger

(Away in a Manger: Lydia Because, soloist, Nancy Caldwell, oboe. Congregation joins last verse.)

Second Lesson
Luke 2:8-12
Cathy Parker

Hymn 151
The First Noel

Third Lesson
Luke 2:13-20
Don Manworren

Anthem
Hymn of Angels
MHCC Choir

Prayer of Peace and Justice
"The Work of Christmas" by Howard Thurman
Stephen Studnicka

Prayers of the People
Rev. Kyle Walker

Call: As we pray, live and give;
Response: shine your everlasting light.

The Lord’s Prayer
Congregation

Our Creator 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 in the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Hymn 153
It Came upon the Midnight Clear
Welcome to the Lord's Table

Prayer at the Table

One: We lift up our hearts in God for the gifts of Life given for all.
All: Thanks be to God.

One: As Christmas reminds us of how the Divine came into the world in one so small, young, and fragile, so the Gifts of Life Abundant are in the ordinary made extraordinary, in the bread of the earth and the juice of the grape becoming food of the Spirit, incarnations of the Sacred.
All: Thanks be to God.

One: As Christmas calls us to be mindful of all those in need, all without a room, all with grief and fear, and to work for a world more just, so may this token of our daily bread, and this token of our cup of forgiveness which quenches the thirst of the soul, call us to go feed others.
All: Thanks be to God.

One: As Christmas offers us peace and light in times of darkness, may the sacred offering of this small meal, one to another, inspire us to acts of lovingkindness, all in the Spirit of the One born upon this night who showed us faithfulness without fear, preparing a welcome table for all.
All: Thanks be to God.

Bread of Life, Cup of Love
All are welcome in this free and open communion. We follow the practice of intinction, or dipping of the bread into the cup before eating. After you receive communion, pick up a candle from the baskets and join us in a circle around the sanctuary. There is also a basket with candles in the back. Keep your bulletin with you for words to Silent Night. Elders will come to those who remain seated. Gluten-free wafers and cup are available upon request.

Sharing Candlelight from the Christ Candle

*Hymn of Light Silent Night

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace; sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia.
Christ, the Savior is born.
Christ, the Savior is born.

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love’s pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth; Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Benediction
Rev. Kyle Walker

We are grateful to our Worship Team, chaired by Amanda Hendrickson, for their work in planning and preparing for tonight’s service.