

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2012

Rev. Dr. Charles A. Wiessner, Pastor
Dr. Lonieta Cornwall, Music Director
Ms. Jennifer Legg, Preaching Assistant

The Approach to God

PRELUDE *"Manger Melodies"* Hand Bell Choir

VOTUM

INTROIT *"Christmas Prayer"* Chancel Choir

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

***CAROL #168** *"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"*

***SALUTATION**

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

(unison)

Gracious Father, we rejoice this evening that you loved us so much that you gave us your Son to be our Savior. We are thankful that Jesus loved us so much that he gladly left the splendors of heaven to be born as a human baby in the stable in Bethlehem. We are thankful that you are a God of love.

We ask that as we rejoice in the remembrance of Jesus' holy birth, we may welcome him in our hearts as Lord and Savior. Inspire us to give ourselves in gladness and gratitude and to show our desire to honor him in the willing service of others. And may the glad tidings of your grace in Jesus Christ soon be proclaimed throughout all the world. Amen.

A PROPHECY OF JESUS' BIRTH

Isaiah 9:1-7

CAROL #151 *"Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus"*

PROMISE TO MARY

Luke 1:26-38

SOLO *"Breath of Heaven"* Heidi Horesovsky

CAROL #167 *"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"*

TRIP TO BETHLEHEM

Luke 2:1-5

CAROL #171

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

The Word of God Becomes Present

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Luke 2:6-7

***CAROL #157**

“Away in a Manger”

UNISON READING #48

John 1:1-4 (p. 521 hymnal)

MEDITATION

“Becoming Children of God”

The Response to God’s Presence

THE ANGELS

Luke 2:8-14

MUSICAL SELECTION

“Angel’s Carol”

Female Ensemble

CAROL #169

“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”

THE SHEPHERDS

Luke 2:15-20

MEDITATION

Jennifer Legg

CAROL #158

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

PRAYER

THE WISE MEN

Matthew 2:7-12

OFFERING AND MINISTRY OF MUSIC

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

Male Ensemble
Ed Matson, Tuba

CANDLELIGHTING #154

“Silent Night”

***CAROL #161**

“Joy to the World”

***BENEDICTION**

“Gloria in Excelsis”

***POSTLUDE**

*The congregation may stand.