

Christmas Eve Service

Rev. Dr. Matthew Floding

Dr. Lonietta Cornwall, Music Director

Jennifer Legg, M. Div.

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

Hand bell Choir

VOTUM

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Chancel Choir

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Prophet Isaiah said:

The people who walked in darkness
Have seen a great light;
Those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
On them light has shined.

People: O Come, O Come Emmanuel!

Leader: The Priest Zechariah said before John's birth:

By the tender mercy of our God,
The dawn from on high will break upon us,
To give light to those who sit in darkness,
To guide our feet into the way of peace.

People: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Leader: The Evangelist John said:

What has come into being in him was life
And the life is the light of all people.
The light shines in the darkness,
And the darkness did not overcome it.

People: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Leader: God is with us

God is coming into our lives in a new way
The birth of the Christ-child is the renewal of hope
A reminder that Christ will come again
Keep watch for the light; it is drawing near.

All: O Come, O Come Emmanuel!

***CAROL #170**

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God our Savior, we confess that we are not people of peace. You came to show us mercy, but we are not merciful to others. You came to establish justice, but we fail to seek what is right. Forgive us, God of grace. Let your light shine upon us to deliver us from evil and lead us in your holy way; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CHORAL SELECTION

“Holy Night”

Chancel Choir

THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 9:2-7

MEDITATION

GOSPEL READING:

John 1:1-5

MEDITATION

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.

***CAROL #165** *"Good Christian Men, Rejoice"*

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

OFFERING

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Words of Institution of the Sacrament

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

The Communion of the People

Music *"Draw us In the Spirit's Tether"*

Prayer

THE CANDLE LIGHTING

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

***CAROL #154** *"Silent Night, Holy Night"*

***BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE #161**

"Joy to the World!"

***POSTLUDE**

**Those that are able please stand*