

# CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

## PRELUDE

## INTROIT

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

## INVITATORY

A: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C: **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it!**

## ENTRANCE HYMN

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;

Come and behold him, born the king of angels:

*Refrain: Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,*

*Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, Glory in the highest.

## CHRISTMAS DIALOGUE

A: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness have seen a great light.

C: **We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

A: For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given.

C: **In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

## FIRST READING

*Isaiah 9:2-7*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE & LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

## SECOND READING

*Titus 3:4-7*

## RESPONSORY HYMN

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

O little town of Bethlehem how still we see thee lie.

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by

Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight

O holy Child of Bethlehem descend to us, we pray

Cast out our sin and enter in be born to us today

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell

O come to us, abide with us Our Lord Emmanuel

## GOSPEL

*Luke 2:1-20*

## SERMON

Pr. Carleton Smee

*The Nativity of our Lord.*



DECEMBER 24, 2017

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men from heavens all gracious King!"  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

O ye beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow;  
Look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;  
Oh rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,  
When with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,  
When the new heaven and earth shall own the Prince of Peace, their King,  
And the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

**NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of  
the Father,**

**God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy  
Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was  
buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended  
into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will  
have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the  
Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He**

**has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen**

**PRAYERS**

A. I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever.

**C. With my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.**

A. To us you have brought abundant joy.

**C. Before you we rejoice and sing.**

P. Let us pray. O God, to whom glory is sung in the highest while on earth peace is proclaimed to all people of goodwill, grant that goodwill to us, your servants. Cleanse us from all our sins, and give perpetual peace, healing, and salvation to us and to all people; through your mercy, O God, who blesses and governs all things, now and forever.

**C. Amen**

A. Tomorrow the iniquity of the earth shall be blotted out.

**C. And the Savior of the world shall reign over us.**

A. The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light.

**C. For those abiding in the land of death, a new splendor has appeared.**

P. God of love, Father of all, the darkness that covered the earth has given way to the bright dawn of your Word made flesh. Make us a people of this light. Make us faithful to your Word, that we may bring your life to the waiting world.; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C. Amen**

A. Today for our sake, the King of heaven is born of a virgin mother:

**C. To reclaim the lost for the heavenly kingdom.**

A. All the angels cry aloud with joy:

**C. For God has come himself to save all humanity.**

P. Almighty God, you wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of Jesus Christ who came to share our humanity, and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C. Amen**

**PEACE**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY HYMN**      *What Child Is This*

What Child is this who, laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, the cross be borne for me, for you.  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh, come peasant, king to own Him;  
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise a song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

A. Lord of Christmas,

**C. We are mindful of the supreme gift that you gave us in a manger at Bethlehem. Humbly we offer our gifts of service and possessions in joyful thanksgiving for the love you have shown us. Accept these gifts for the sake of your Son who was born to us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**DISTRIBUTION**

*Away in a Manger*  
*I am so Glad Each Christmas Eve*

LBW 67

**COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER**

**THE GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION**

*John 1:1-14*

*The minister lights a large candle from the Christ candle, which symbolizes He who is the Light of the world, of whom John's Gospel speaks. The ushers light their candles*

*from the minister's candle, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. The light candle is never tipped, but held upright when passing the light to another.*

**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 Thy holy face;

With the dawn of redeeming grace. Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

**BLESSING**

**SENDING HYMN**

*Joy to the World*

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.

Joy to the World, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as, the curse is found.

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.

**DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace, for Christ has come

**C: Glory to God! Glory in the Highest! Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE**

*Silence please as you leave the sanctuary.*

*We wish for all a very  
Blessed and Merry  
Christmas.*

*May the God of hope  
bring you  
joy and peace.*