

**CHRISTMAS EVE - 7:00 p.m.**  
**DECEMBER 24, 2017**

Proclaiming the Word:  
Piano & Organ:  
Saxophone:

Maggie Walker  
Owen Spicer  
Oscer Abley

**PRELUDE:**

**WORDS OF WELCOME:**

**HYMN: #48 "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"**

- 1 Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
**Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"**
- 2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail, the incarnate deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel! **R**
- 3 Hail, the heavenborn Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth. **R**

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: Hark! Hear the angels sing. For tonight is the night we prepare our hearts to welcome the Christ Child.

**All: *Throughout Advent we have heard the stories of the coming Messiah - the One who will be born for us.***

One: We have celebrated the gifts that he brings; gifts of hope, peace, joy and love.

**All: *We have offered the gifts that we can bring; the gifts of our very selves.***

One: On this Christmas Eve we are ready to welcome Jesus into the world and into our hearts.

**All: *We are ready to be transformed by God who is with us.***

One: Hark! Hear the angels sing!

**All: *Glory! Glory to the newborn King!***

**PRAYER OF APPROACH:**

**ANTHEM:**

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 2:1-7

**ANTHEM:** Joy to the World

Wilberg

**HYMN:** #64 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

1 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.

2 For Christ is born of Mary,  
and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to all on earth.

**CHILDREN'S TIME:** Children are welcome to come to the front

3 How silently, how silently  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him still  
the dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in;  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel.

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 2:8-20

**REFLECTION:**

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE:** The Walker Family

**SUNG RESPONSE:** #7 "Hope Is a Star"  
***Christ is the One, we welcome tonight.  
God who is with us, and brings us true light.  
When God is a child, there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.***

**HYMN:** #91 "The First Nowell" Women-verse 4, Men-verse 5

1 The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
***Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.***

2 They looked up and saw a star,  
shining in the east, beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night. **R**

3 And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went. **R**

4 This star drew nigh to the northwest; (Women)  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay,  
right over the place where Jesus lay. **R**

5 Then entered in those wise men three, (Men)  
full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold and myrrh and frankincense. **R**

6 Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood our life hath bought. **R**

#### PRESENTATIONS OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

\* OFFERTORY RESPONSE AND PRAYER: 539  
*God of all good, our gifts we bring to you,  
use them your holy purpose to fulfil;  
tokens of love and pledges brought anew  
that our whole life is offered to your will.*

#### PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE:

#### SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST:

You are invited to move to the perimeter of the sanctuary, and once there we will light one another's candles from the common Christ Candle.

#### HYMN: "Silent Night"

- 1 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.
- 2 Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight!  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia,  
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.
- 3 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.

#### BENEDICTION:

POSTLUDE: Jig Fugue in G Major Back

*With the large number of people* and the concern over lit candles,  
please make sure your children are supervised.

**December 31<sup>st</sup>** is the deadline for 2017 church offerings.  
The staff would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a  
blessed New Year!

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