

Christmas Eve Family Service

December 24, 2021

5:00pm Service of Worship

A warm and sincere welcome to all of you who have come to worship with us on this holy night! We hope that you will find a sense of awe, expectancy, and peace. This service is tailored for you, the family! Your children are to be seen AND heard at this service! Take a moment to read through your bulletin to be aware of the many moments of participation.

Of particular note are those instructions that are preceded by our little angel: 😊

Prelude **Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus** Miller
Youth Choir & Alumni

Welcome & Lighting of the Advent Wreath Rev. Tracy McNeil Wines

Introit **Christmas Lullaby Calypso** Donnelly/Strid
Youth, Children, and Cherub Choirs

Hymn **It Came Upon the Midnight Clear**

😊 If you have a flower in your bag, **bring it forward** and place it in one of the baskets during this hymn!

Reading (adapted from Luke 1:26-38)

Reader: God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, to the virgin Mary, who was engaged to Joseph. The angel said:

People: "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Reader: Mary was scared. But the angel said:

People: "Don't be afraid, Mary, God is happy with you. You are going to have a baby by the Holy Spirit and you are to name him Jesus. He will be the Son of God."

Reader: Mary answered:

People: "I am God's servant. I will do what he asks."

Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem

☺ If you have a light in your bag get it out, and wait for the cue to stand up and hold your light so that Mary and Joseph can find their way to Bethlehem!

Reading (adapted from Luke 2:1-7)

In those days, Caesar Augustus required every person to be counted. Joseph and Mary left Nazareth and went to Bethlehem, Joseph's hometown. It was also time for Mary's baby to be born. They went to the hotel to ask the innkeeper for a room.

☺ Everybody knock on the pew in front of you and see if we can get the innkeeper to come out!

Anthem

Knock, Knock, Knock

Traditional

Cherub Choir

Hymn

Away in a Manger

☺ If you have a piece of burlap in your bag, **bring it forward** and put it in the manger!

Reading (adapted from Luke 2:1-7)

The only place the innkeeper could offer Mary and Joseph to stay was the stable. It was dark and there were animals and hay. That very night, baby Jesus was born. There was no party, no doctor, and no fanfare. Only the beauty of the star of Bethlehem accompanied the birth of God's son. Mary wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger.

Liturgical Dance

Joseph's Lullaby

Millard/Bannister

Children's Choir

Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High

☺ If you have bells in your bag, **QUIETLY** get them out and read along carefully, watching for the cue (*) to ring them. HINT: It will happen twice!

Reading (adapted from Luke 1:26-38)

Reader: Shepherds were in the field watching their sheep. An angel appeared (*) and a great light glowed around them. They were terrified, but the angel said to them:

People: “Don’t be afraid! I bring good news of great joy for all people! A baby has been born today in Bethlehem. He is Christ the Lord! You will find him wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Reader: Suddenly, many angels appeared (*) praising God and singing:

People: “Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth to all people!”

Reader: When the angels left, the shepherds said to each other:

People: “Let’s go to Bethlehem!”

Hymn

We Three Kings

😊 If you have a wrapped package in your bag, **bring it forward** and place it in the gift box in the front!

Reading (adapted from Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11)

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Magi came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.” King Herod sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go search for the child and let me know where he is so that I, too, may go and worship him.”

After they had heard the king, they followed the star until it stopped over the place where the child was. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, incense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Anthem

Night of Silence

Kantor/Ferguson

Youth Choir and Alumni

Sharing the Light of Christ

Rev. Nilse Furtado-Gilliam

*Please tip only unlit candles to receive the flame
from those already lit to prevent hot wax from spilling.*

Hymn

Silent Night (all verses)

UMH 239

Please lift your candles on the final verse.

Benediction

Rev. Wines

Postlude

Joy to the World

UMH 246