



Candle Lighting Service - Christmas Eve 2024

Opening Carol: #181 “Joy to the World”

We welcome you O Christ, Light of the World, in the Name of the Father, The Son+ and the Holy Spirit. Open our hearts and minds to worship you in spirit and in truth.

Call to Worship – Psalm 96

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Light the four candles of the Advent wreath.

Reader One: Beloved, today we welcome the Christ Child, the fulfillment of our joy, as we proclaim with the prophet Isaiah, “For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

Congregation: Christ our joy has come near. Emmanuel, God with us, has come to dwell with us as a tiny baby. “His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this” (Isaiah 9:7).

Reader Two: We light this candle as a sign of Christ coming to dwell with us, to live in the neighborhood of vulnerable humanity as a vulnerable child. May the light of Christ warm our hearts and light our way as we share the joy of God’s salvation wherever we go.

Light the center candle of the Advent wreath.

First Lection: Isaiah 9.2-7

Hymn # 205 “Away in a Manger”

Pastor: This is the long night, this is the dark night when those who listen await his cry.
This is the eve of the great nativity when those who are longing await his appearing.
Congregation: Wait, with watchful heart.

Leader: Listen; hear the song of angels glorious. E're long it will be heard that his foot has reached the earth. That the King of glory is come!
Congregation: Sweet little Jesus, King of Glory!

Leader: This night is born, Jesus, Son of the King of glory. This night is born to us the hope of peace.
Congregation: Sweet little, Jesus, Prince of Peace!

Leader: This night gleamed sea and shore together. This night was born Christ, the King of greatness.
Congregation: Hail to the King, Blessed is he!

Pastor: Surely the light of the world has come, and unspeakable joy fills this place.
Congregation: In me, Lord Jesus, let there be joy!

The New Testament Reading: Titus 2.11-14

Hymn # 198 "What Child is This"

Giving of Our Offering

Doxology

The Gospel Reading: Luke 2.1-20

"Mary Did You Know"

Christmas Homily "The Songs of Christmas"

Little Drummer Boy

Communion

"Silent Night" (lighting of the candles)

Benediction