

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Prelude Brian Sampson

Words of Welcome Rev. William Kren

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord all the earth!

People: Glory to God in the highest heaven, peace on earth to all!

Leader: The heavens are telling the glory of God, let the earth rejoice, let trees of the forest sing for joy!

People: Glory to God in the highest heaven, peace on earth to all!

Leader: For a child is born for us, a Son is given to us.

ALL: In Him was Life, and the life was the light of all people.

*Opening Hymn: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" Pilgrim Hymnal # 132

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

O God of the Baby of Bethlehem, we come into your presence with praise and thanksgiving. We hear the glad tidings of angelic voices; We come to experience this good news of great joy for all the people. As the shepherds traveled to Bethlehem, we have traveled here – excited, expectant, and hopeful. Let the words of sacred scripture seep into our hearts, to be treasured and pondered anew. We are here; we are ready, O God! Let the light of your love break forth! Amen.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

We relight four candles representing the four weeks of Advent as we await the blessed hope of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Three candles symbolize gifts of Jesus Christ to us: Peace, Love, Hope, and Joy!

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Tonight is the night for which we have all been waiting. Our Advent wreath will now be completed by the lighting of our Christ candle. ***"For to us a child is born, to us, a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.."*** With the birth of Jesus, our lives have been changed. We light this candle to represent that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior – He is the center of our lives. Amen.

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Luke 1:26-35, 38

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

John Peters

PH #116

Luke 2:1-7

Special Music – Ray and Jay Carter

Nancy Wolter

Luke 2:8-14

"The First Nowell"

Jay Carter

PH #141

Matthew 2:1-11

"Joy to the World"

Sue Kren

PH #130

CHRISTMAS HOMILY

Rev. William Kren

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLES

As the ushers light the candle of the person seated on the aisle and the flame is passed from one to another, worshippers are cautioned never to tip the burning candle. Tip only the unlit candles to receive the flame.

"Silent Night, Holy Night"
Pilgrim Hymnal #138

We are thankful that you have chosen to worship with us on this Holiest of evenings. As we honor the gift we receive through the birth of the Christ Child, may our service of worship and fellowship be a gift to all who attend.