

We are glad you are with us this evening worshipping on this holy, sacred night.
The asterisk (*) indicates that you are invited to stand as you are able.

Christmas Eve

Prelude Janet Krebs, Organ
Welcome Rev. Linda M. Butler

*Call to Worship

One: Our lives are stilled in trembling hope. Within a womb of faithfulness, in ordinary human life, holiness may be conceived and brought to birth in labor and sighing.

All: Be still and hear the promises of God, echoing in the melodies of distant singing.

(moments of silence as Advent candles are lit)

One: Pause and look, for we may be found among the welcoming – the ones who greet in joy the small but true arrival of the Divine in the midst of human life.

All: Be still and hear the promises of God, echoing in the melodies of distant singing.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

One: On this night, the light has come upon us.

All: We behold the light of Christ and say, "Alleluia!"

One: Christ was born and dwells among us, full of grace and truth.

All: We behold the light of Christ and say, "Alleluia!"

Hymn "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" Red Hymnal, 240

Prayer of confession: preparing the space

O God, we pray that you will create among our lives a sacred space for the Christ child.

Even as we ask for this, our lives kneel before you in regret, as we know the hurt we sometimes cause –

O God, we have not always acted in loving and just ways. Sometimes we have closed the door to kindness or turned away people who are different.

Create a space of forgiveness here, we pray.

Sometimes we have been so busy with our own agendas that we have failed to look for your life lying among us, the life which invites us to stop and see a different dream for the world.

Create a space of forgiveness here, we pray.

Then there are moments when we deny ourselves the gifts of vulnerable hope, bowing to the cynicisms of our day and refusing to lift our hearts to receive your promises.

Create a space of forgiveness here, we pray.

Come to us in grace, Jesus Christ.

O Holy Night

Ministry of Music "O Holy Night" – Adolpe Adam Alice Pruisner and Juliet Reid, vocal solo
Tony Reid, guitar

Candle lighting

When lighting your candle, keep the lit candle upright at all times. Tip the unlit candle into the lit candle.

One: God of life, on this night, the world is reborn with the birth of your Son, Jesus. We thank you for the gift of your child, who came to show us the way.

All: Come light, light of God...

One: God, you are the guardian of the poor. Many children are being born tonight in places no better than that stable in Bethlehem. We pray for them.

All: Come light, light of God...

One: God of comfort, we thank you that we have a warm place to gather, and friends and family to care for us. We pray for all who are sick, or lonely, in trouble or afraid, that they may be healed and consoled.

All: Come light, light of God...

One: God among us, in the birth of Jesus, you show us your hope for the world. We pray for ourselves and for each other, that we may be filled with hope and new life tonight.

All: Come light, light of God....

Hymn "Silent Night" Tony Reid, guitar

***Benediction**

***The Candles are Extinguished**

Postlude

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 Hallelujah
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

Silent night, holy night
wondrous star; lend thy light;

With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King
Christ the Savior is born

Christ the Savior is born!