

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
"Ave Marie" - Gounod
Cassie Naaktgeboren, vocal solo accompanied by Ryan Pearson, guitar

Welcome Rev. Linda M. Butler

* **Hymn** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" No. 234 (vs. 1,3,4,6)

Call to Worship

Leader: When the world was dark and the city was quiet, you came.

People: **You crept in beside us.**

Leader: And no one knew. Only the few who dared to believe that God might do something different.

People: **Will you do the same this Christmas, God?**

Leader: Will you come into the darkness of tonight's world; not the friendly darkness as when sleep rescues us from tiredness, but the fearful darkness, in which people have stopped believing that war will end or that food will come or that a government will change or that the Church cares?

People: **Will you come into that darkness and do something different to save your people from death and despair?**

Leader: Will you come into the quietness of this town, not the friendly quietness as when lovers hold hands, but the fearful silence when the phone has not rung, the letter has not come, the friendly voice no longer speaks, the doctor's face says it all? Will you come into that darkness, and do something different, not to distract, but to embrace your people?

People: **Will you come into the dark corners and the quiet places of our lives?**

Leader: We ask this not because we are guilt-ridden or want to be, but because the fullness our lives long for depends upon us being as open and vulnerable to you as you were to us, when you came, wearing no more than diapers, and trusting human hands to hold their maker.

People: **Will you come into our lives, if we open them to you and do something different?**

Leader: When the world was dark and the city was quiet you came. You crept in beside us. Do the same this Christmas, Lord.

People: **Do the same this Christmas. Amen. Amen.**

Hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem"
Scripture Luke 2:1-7

No.230

The Gifts of Christmas

Ministry of Music	Carol Medley: “O Little Town of Bethlehem” and “God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen”	Owen and Ross Schupbach, trumpet duet
Meditation	The Gift of Room	
Hymn	“The First Noel”	No.245
Scripture	Luke 2: 8-16	
Ministry of Music	“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”	Ellen Waterman and Richard Sladek, flute and piano
Meditation	The Gift of Bread	
Hymn	“Away in a Manger”	No.217
Scripture	Luke 2: 17-20	
Meditation	The Gift of Sight	
Ministry of Music	“Mid – Winter” – Bob Chilcott	Chancel Choir
	Magee Glenn-Burns – liturgical dance	

We Respond to the Gifts of God

Prayer Remembering Others

Music Ministry	“Pie Jesu” – Andrew Lloyd Webber	Bailey Bandle, vocal solo
Offering		
Offertory	“Gesu Bambino” – Pietro Yon	Cassie and Carly Naaktgeboren, vocal duet

We Go into the World to Share God’s Blessing

Scripture	John 1:1-9, 14	
Meditation	The Gift of Light	
Ministry of Music	“O Holy Night” – Adolphe Adam	Breanne Russell, vocal solo

Leader: On a night like this over 2000 years ago a child was born in hope to change the world.

People: **And light shines.**
Candle lighter lights his or her candle.

Leader: Tonight – somewhere – a child is being born in hope to change the world.

People: **And light shines.**
Candle lighter lights his or her candle.

Leader: Tonight – somewhere – someone who is ready to do harm pauses and remembers a child from long ago... and chooses hope and peace instead of violence.

People: **And light shines.**
Candle lighter lights his or her candle.

Leader: Tonight – somewhere – someone who is lonely and afraid is comforted by a stranger... and knows a moment of hope and love.

People: **And light shines.**
Candle lighter lights his or her candle.

Leader: Tonight – somewhere – someone who is hungry or naked receives the gift of food or clothing... and knows hope, feeling full and warm.

People: **And light shines.**
Candle lighter lights his or her candle.

Leader: Tonight – somewhere – someone who has been a prisoner is released... and knows hope and freedom.

People: **And light shines.**
Candle lighter lights his or her candle.

Leader: Tonight – here and there – people choose to act with peace, with love, with generosity, with mercy... and Christ is born again in hope.

People: **And light shines.**

***Hymn** David and Ellen Waterman, "Stille Nacht" in German
"Silent Night, Holy Night" words on back of bulletin

***Benediction**

***The Candles are Extinguished**

Postlude

Candle Lighting tips

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

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!