

**A SERVICE OF CANDLELIGHTING
AND
A CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION
*Christmas Eve, 2016***

Welcome

Greeting

Opening Prayer

O God our Father, you have brought us again to the glad season when we celebrate the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Grant that His Spirit may be born anew in our hearts this night and that we may joyfully welcome Him to reign over us.

Open our ears that we may hear again the angelic chorus of old.
Open our lips that we, too, may sing with uplifted hearts.

Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth, peace, goodwill toward all;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Prelude Christopher A. McCroskey

(As the Prelude begins, prayerfully prepare your hearts and minds for worship.)

*Acolyte

*Hymn *“Away in a Manger”* 217

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Solo *“Sweet Little Jesus Boy”* Jackie McNeill

Anthem *“What Did the Star See?”* Choir

Prayer for Illumination 6

Scripture Lesson Luke 2:1-20 Page 58 (N.T.)

Sermon “An Unexpected Event” Rev. Donna Stone Eidson

Response to the Word “Apostles’ Creed” 7

Invitation

Prayer of Confession and Pardon 8

Thanksgiving 9-10

The Lord’s Prayer 10

Communion and Candlelighting 11

*Benediction

*Hymn *“Silent Night, Holy Night”*

*The Congregation May Stand

After you receive the elements of communion, please go to the back altar rail opening and light your candle from the Christ Candle. You may return to your pew or stand in the side aisle. After everyone has communed and I do the benediction, we will exit to the Gathering Area singing the first verse of Silent Night.

Silent Night, Holy Night

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.