

A SERVICE OF CANDLELIGHTING
AND
A CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION
Christmas Eve 2023

Welcome

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

Greeting

*Hymn “O Come, All Ye Faithful” 234

“Let the Children Come!” *Lighting of the Christ Candle*

Opening Prayer

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 9:2-7 Pages 607-608 (O.T.)

Psalter Psalm 96 815-816

Anthem “O Night of Wonder” Choir

Gospel Reading Luke 2:1-20 Page 58 (N.T.)

Meditation “For Unto You is Born” Rev. John D. Jordan

Invitation to Communion

Prayer of Yearning *(Unison)*

We often come to Christmas longing for a cozy story of a baby born in a manger. But this baby will change the world. He is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace. Something strong and powerful began with that infant. He brings justice and righteousness for all the world. Enlarge our minds, increase our vision, and strengthen our commitment, that we too may work for justice and righteousness. Help us walk faithfully with him, and lead us on your paths of peace. Amen

Words of Assurance

Passing of the Peace

The Great Thanksgiving

Giving of the Bread and Cup

(Come down the center aisle to receive the meal and return via the side aisle picking up a candle as you return to your seat.)

*Hymn “Silent Night, Holy Night” 239

(During the singing of the hymn the ushers will light his/her candle from the Christ Candle and light the candle of the person at the end of each pew who will then pass the light down the pew. The person who is lighting their candle should tip their candle to the light to receive the light while the lit candle remains upright.)

Dismissal with Blessing

Dismissal Hymn “Joy to the World” On Back

(As we sing the last hymn let us carry the light of Christ into the world!)

*The Congregation May Stand

Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.
2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.