



CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2013
5:30 p.m.



The Liturgy of the Word

*As you enter the Sanctuary, please assume a quiet and respectful attitude of worship.
Please silence your mobile devices.*

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

You are invited to pray, perhaps including the following prayer, as you prepare for worship.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy Him perfectly in heaven, where with You and the Holy Spirit He lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

ORGAN PRELUDE: "O Come All Ye Faithful" J.F. Wade
Lenora Morrow, Organist

STRINGS PRELUDE: "Larghetto from Serenade for Strings" Edward Elgar

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Alan, Kathy, William, John, and Christian Hammond

CHORAL INTROIT: "Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones" 17th Century German

Ye watchers and ye holy ones,
Bright seraphs, cherubim and thrones,
Raise the glad strain, Alleluia!
Cry out, dominions, principedoms, pow'rs,
Virtues, archangels, angel choirs, Alleluia!

O friends, in gladness let us sing,
Supernal anthems echoing, Alleluia!
To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in one: Alleluia!

*The Chancel Choir
Gabriel C. Statom, Director of Music*

CALL TO WORSHIP Richard G. Cain

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: No. 225 "Once in Royal David's City" IRBY
*stanza 1: Claire Schneider, soloist
stanza 2: Choir
stanzas 3-5: Congregation*

✦THE FIRST GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 2:1-7 Colin Donoghue
(page 857 in pew Bible)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

✦CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE IRBY

**Glory be to God the Father, and to Christ, His only Son.
Glory to the Holy Spirit, who makes known the Three in One.
On this night, we bow and pray,
To the One who came to save.**

✦PRAYER OF ADORATION

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Our special offering today is for the Caring Ministry Fund. This fund assists those in need among our members and in our community. If you would like to contribute, please use the special envelope in the pew rack or mark your check "Caring Ministry Fund."

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "O Magnum Mysterium" Morton Lauridsen

<i>O magnum mysterium,</i>	O great mystery,
<i>Et admirabile sacramentum</i>	And wondrous sacrament,
<i>Ut animalia viderent Dominum</i>	That animals should see the
<i>Natum, jacentem in praesepio!</i>	Newborn Lord, lying in their manger!
<i>Beata Virgo, cujus viscera</i>	Blessed is the Virgin whose womb
<i>Meruerunt portare</i>	Was worthy to bear the
<i>Dominum Christum. Alleluia!</i>	Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

✦ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE SEE AMID THE WINTER'S SNOW

**See, amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,
See the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.
Hail, thou ever blessed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.**

✦ PRAYER OF DEDICATION Gerry A. Peak

✦ GREETINGS

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

THE SECOND GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 2:8-20 Bess Nelson
(page 857 in pew Bible)

All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field;
**The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the Word of our God will stand forever. Amen.** *(Isaiah 40:6b, 8)*

HOMILY *He Has Come* Sanders L. Willson

The Liturgy of the Table

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

✦ PROFESSION OF OUR FAITH The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,
by Whom all things were made;
Who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man,
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered and was buried;
and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
and He shall come again with glory
to judge both the living and the dead;
Whose Kingdom shall have no end.
And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified;
Who spoke by the prophets;
and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty God, who inhabits eternity
but dwells with those who are of a humble and contrite spirit:
before You and our Lord Jesus Christ
we confess our sins.
We have ignored the presence of Your Spirit.
We have failed to look for the return
of our Savior and Judge.
We have been blind to Your coming
in the suffering of the hungry, the exiled,
the destitute, the sick, and the imprisoned.
In Your great goodness
put away our offenses
and cleanse us from our sin, for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON

LITANY OF PRAISE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is meet and right so to do.

It is meet and right and our joyful duty that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto You, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, and we praise You, King of Heaven, for Your lowly humility and Your infinite love whereby You have rescued us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of Light;

**Therefore with angels and archangels and all the heavenly host,
we laud and magnify Your glorious Name,
evermore praising You and saying:**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

SONG OF ADORATION ADESTE FIDELES

**O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

CHORAL MEDITATION: "Myn Lyking" R.R. Terry
15th Century Old English

I saw a fair maiden sitten and sing:
She lulled a little child, a sweete Lording.

*Lullay my liking,
My dear son, my sweeting;
Lullay my dear heart,
Mine own dear darling.*

That same Lord is he that made all thing;
Of all lords he is Lord of all kinges, King.

There was mickle (much) melody at that childe's birth:
All that were in heav'nly bliss, they made mickle mirth.

Angels bright sang their song to that childe;
"Blessed be thou and so be she, so meek and so mild."

SHARING OF THE CUP

CHORAL MEDITATION: "Still, Still, Still" Traditional German Carol
arr. Mack Wilberg

Still, still, still, the Child's eyes softly close.
And Mary, breathless, draws Him, weeping,
To her heart made pure for keeping.
Still, still, still, His bright eyes softly close.

Sing, sing, sing. He hears and sweetly smiles.
And kneeling Joseph joins in chorus
With the angels bending o'er us.
Sing, sing, sing. He hears and sweetly smiles.

Sleep, sleep, O sleep. He breathes a tender sigh,
For soon He'll wake the wake from slumber,
Bringing life and endless wonder,
Sleep, sleep, O sleep. He breathes a tender sigh.
Sleep, Holy Jesus, sleep, sleep, sleep.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LIGHTING OF THE CHURCH

HYMN OF CHRIST'S BIRTH: "Silent Night! Holy Night!" STILLE NACHT

**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, heav'nly hosts sing alleluia;
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!**

✦HYMN OF JOY No. 195: "Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come" ANTIOCH

✦BENEDICTION

✦CONGREGATIONAL THREE-FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come" arr. W.H. Bates

✦Indicates congregation standing

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Paraments

The season of the Christ Child is represented by a brilliant golden star, the star that appeared in the East. Its radiant beams streaming downward toward earth are embroidered upon a Pulpit Scarf of white needlepoint, symbolizing purity. Upon each white Bible Marker is the Chi Rho, creatively designed with a horizontal bar over the top of the two cross bars of Chi, suggesting a manger, intersected by the vertical symbol, Rho.

These paraments will hang until Epiphany Day, January 6.



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