

Christmas Eve Worship

Silent Night
H O L Y N I G H T



Christmas Eve Service

Welcome & Announcements

***Carol** *Hymn #234 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" Verses 1, 3, 5*

Christmas Eve Call to Worship

Reader: Long ago the prophet gave us this promise: "Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Lighting of Christ Candle

Reader: On this holy evening we light all four candles in our Advent wreath, and we are reminded of the Expectation, Preparation, Proclamation, and Revelation of His coming. Now we light the Christ Candle. We hear afresh the promise of peace on earth. Lord, we long for that peace in our hearts and in our world. *The four Advent candles are relit and the Christ candle is lit.*

Unison Opening Prayer

All: Gracious and Mighty King, we celebrate your goodness to us as we join the triumph and joy of Christmas. As your love has been revealed in all of its fullness, we pray that love may abound in our hearts during this special day. Grant us the spirit of Christ that we may live in the fullness of his character every day. In His name we pray. Amen.

***Carol** *Hymn #218 "It Came upon the Midnight Clear"*

Scripture Reading *Luke 2:1-20*

Children's Message

Carol *Hymn #217 "Away in a Manger"*

The Lord's Prayer

Unison Congregational Prayer

You have come as you promised, Prince of Peace, Savior of the world. You, through whom we come to be, Have come to be with us; Power in our weakness, Light in our darkness, Hope in hearts heavy with despair.

You, Creation's Lord, Come for us all, For the shepherds and the kings. In You, we see all are one, In need of You and one another, Sisters and brothers.

As we gaze at you With wonder and joy, The world is born anew. Your kingdom has come. And, blessed be God, We, too, belong.

O Prince of Peace, Savior of the World, We celebrate the re-birth, Of compassion and love.

Carol *Hymn #230 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

Scripture Readings *A Litany for Peace*

Leader: We rejoice that the promised Prince of Peace has come:

People: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. *"Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests. Isaiah 9:6 & Luke 2:14*

Leader: Jesus, thank You for bringing us peace with God.

People: Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we [a] have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. *Romans 5:1*

Leader: Through Jesus, we have deep personal peace.

People: Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. *John 14:27. See also Isaiah 26:3; John 16:33; Philippians 4:7; II Thessalonians 3:16*

Leader: Through Jesus, we have peace with one another.

People: For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility. *Ephesians 2:14*

Leader: Jesus calls us to be peace makers.

People: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. *Matthew 5:9. See also Psalm 34:14; Hebrews 12:14; Romans 12:18*

Leader: We look forward to the day when there indeed will be peace on earth.

People: He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. *Isaiah 2:4. See also Isaiah 9:5-6; Revelation 21:4*

Leader: Lord, we long for the peace that only You can give.

People: Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you. *II Thessalonians 3:16*

Message *"The Promise of Peace"*

Ministry in Music *"The Light of Christmas"* Shawn & Anna Stemsrud

***Lighting of Candles & Carol** #239 *"Silent Night, Holy Night"* Verses 1, 2, 3

***Benediction** *"The Work of Christmas"* Howard Thurman

Leader: When the song of the angels is stilled, When the star in the sky is gone, When the kings and princes are home, When the shepherds are back with their flock, The work of Christmas begins:

All: To find the lost, To heal the broken, To feed the hungry, To release the prisoner, To rebuild the nations, To bring peace among others, To make music in the heart.