



CHRISTMAS EVE

NATIVITY OF THE LORD
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
December 24, 2020

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION: *Great God, as you came at night when all was still, so enter our lives this night. Illumine our paths with the light of Christ's presence, that we may clearly see the way, the truth, and the life of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

WELCOME

Rev. John White

PRELUDE

Prelude on "O Come, All Ye Faithful"
Dr. Terry McRoberts

McDonald

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Rev. John White & Rev. Courtney Bowen

Leader: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Advent means coming. We are preparing for the days when the nations shall beat their swords into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

(The first Advent candle is lighted)

Leader: The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling will lie down together, and a little child shall lead them.

(The second Advent candle is lighted)

Leader: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

(The third Advent candle is lighted)

Leader: The Lord will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child. She shall bear a son, and name him Emmanuel: "God is with us."

(The fourth Advent candle is lighted)

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

(The Christ candle is lighted)

Leader: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.
Amen. Let us worship God.

SUNG RESPONSE

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (Refrain)
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel

VENI EMMANUEL

BIDDING PRAYER*Rev. Courtney Bowen*

Leader: Eternal God, from the tabernacle of heaven to the poverty of a stable, your radiant light shines forth in a tiny baby wrapped in rags. In Jesus you have become one with us that we might become one with you. Open our hearts to joyfully receive this love that he may be born in us, and we in him. We pray in your holy name. Amen.

FIRST READING*Luke 1:26-35**Rev. Courtney Bowen***SECOND READING***Luke 2:1-7**Rev. John White***MUSIC**

Some Children See Him *Wihla Hutson and Alfred Burt*
Jeff Chambers, soloist and guitarist | Pam Chambers, piano

THIRD READING*Luke 2:8-20* *Rev. Courtney Bowen***HOMILY***“What Did the Angels Sing?”**Rev. John White***MUSIC**

Were You There on that Christmas Night *Natalie Sleeth*
Jeff Chambers, soloist and guitarist

THE LORD’S SUPPER**INVITATION TO THE TABLE***Rev. John White & Rev. Courtney Bowen***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING***Rev. John White & Rev. Courtney Bowen***SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP***Rev. John White & Rev. Courtney Bowen***CLOSING PRAYER***Rev. John White & Rev. Courtney Bowen***HYMN 119**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Susannah White, soloist

MENDELSSOHN**SERVICE OF CANDLELIGHT***Rev. John White & Rev. Courtney Bowen*

Leader: We light our candles, knowing that the One who is the source and promise of all light is the One whose birth we celebrate.
(A candle is lighted)

Leader: Arise and shine, for your light has come! The glory of the Lord has risen upon you!
(Congregation is invited to light a candle at home)

FOURTH READING

John 1:1-14

Rev. Courtney Bowen

HYMN 122

Silent Night! Holy Night!
Dr. Terry McRoberts

STILLE NACHT

BENEDICTION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World
Dr. Terry McRoberts

arr. by Held