

December 24, 2020 ~ Christmas Eve

PRELUDE

WELCOME

GATHERING SONG: No. 144 - "In the Bleak Midwinter" - v. 1

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan;
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

CALL TO WORSHIP

On this joyful day let us remember all who mourn
Let us worship with a heavy heart
We have found hope, peace, joy and love
Now let us remember our journey
Much like Mary's journey to Bethlehem this year has been a journey
A journey through uncertainty, suffering, and the unknown
We have been leading blind, now let us find our star in the East
A star to guide us into a new season of light
Advent is a time to wait, but now prepare us to find the light
Let us light a candle from within

OPENING SONG OF PRAISE: No. 314 – "Longing for Light"

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Refrain:

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice. (Refrain)

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed. (Refrain)

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. (Refrain)

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come. (Refrain)

ADMITTING THE BROKENNESS OF LIFE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

On this night, we confess that we are not really prepared to witness Christ's birth. We have been distracted by daily tasks and all the preparations that are merely external. We are not ready for both the joy and blessing of Christ among us, nor the upheaval that Christ's birth promises to bring. We are blind and need eyes to see. We are naked and need to be clothed. We are wounded and in need of healing. We are dying and need to be raised up.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

SONG OF RESPONSE: No. 104 – "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?" - v. 1

O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast,
to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ENCOUNTERING THE WORD IN OUR MIDST

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2:1-20

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

HYMNS OF RESPONSE:

No. 115 – “Away in a Manger”, v. 1

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

No. 129 – “Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”, v. 1

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.

No. 135 – “There's a Star in the East” v. 1 and refrain

There's a star in the east on Christmas morn.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
It will lead to the place where the Christ was born.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Refrain

Follow, follow; rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Follow the star of Bethlehem. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

No. 143 – “Angels From the Realms of Glory” v. 1

Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o’er all the earth;
you, who sang creation’s story,
now proclaim Messiah’s birth:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION: Special music Gesu Bambino

SUNG PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: NO.134 – “Joy to the World”, v1

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.

CANDLE LIGHTING: No. 122 “Silent 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.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from
heaven afar, heavenly 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.

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December 24, 2020

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