

Worship Bulletin  
**December 24, 2020**  
Christmas Eve

**We Gather to Worship God**

Prelude

Lighting the Candles and Ringing the Bell

Welcome and Announcements

\*Call to Worship:

- One: Good news of great joy!  
**All: People who walked in darkness now live in great light.**  
One: Good news of great joy!  
**All: Oppression and war will not have the last word.**  
One: Good news of great joy!  
**All: A Savior is born, who is the Messiah, the Lord.  
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.**

\*Hymn *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* (v.1) PH-28

Lighting of the Advent Candle

- One: We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;  
**All: let all creation sing for joy at the coming of the Lord.**  
*(Lighting the Advent Candles)*  
One: Light dawns for the righteous, and joy to the upright in heart.  
**All: Rejoice in the Lord! Give thanks to God's holy name.**

\*Hymn *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* (vs. 2 & 3) PH-28

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**God of Love Incarnate, we confess that, with the shepherds, we are terrified of your glory; for in glory's light we see plainly all that is wrong in the world: how oppression still enslaves; how garments of war are still stained with blood; how those seeking refuge still find no place of safety.**

**We also see what is wrong in us: how passionately we pursue the things of this world, but forget to ponder the mystery of faith; how we do not practice the peace you intended in our relationships, our community, or even the church. Forgive us, we pray, and help us not to be afraid. Like the shepherds, we want to follow and find you...**

*(Pause for a few moments of silent reflection and personal confession.)*

**...In the Savior's name we pray. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

\*Congregational Response

*Glory Be to the Father*

PH #579

## We Listen For God's Word

### Prayer for Illumination

The Prophecy of the Messiah

Isaiah 9:2-7

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

\*Hymn

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

PH-2

The Coming of Jesus is Announced to Mary

Luke 1:26-38

The Coming of Jesus is Announced to Joseph

Matthew 1:18-25

*Mary Did You Know*

Solo

*(During the music, Gabriel, Mary, and Joseph candles are lit.)*

The Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:1-7

*Away in a Manger (v. 1)*

PH-25

*(During the music, the Baby Jesus candle is lit.)*

Jesus' Birth is Announced to the Shepherds

Luke 2:8-14

*Angels We Have Heard on High (v. 1)*

PH-23

*(During the music, the angel candles are lit.)*

The Shepherds Find the Baby Jesus

Luke 2:15-18

*Angels We Have Heard on High (vs. 2 & 3)*

*(During the Music, the shepherd candles are lit.)*

The Wise Men Bring Their Gifts to Jesus

Matthew 2:1-11

*The First Nowell (vs. 2 thru 5)*

PH-56

*(During the music, the three wise men candles are lit.)*

## We Respond to God's Word

### Christmas Prayer & 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.**

### Invitation to the Christmas Joy Offering

### Prayer of Dedication

#### \*Affirmation of Faith

**Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.**

Sharing the Light of the World

\*Hymn

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

PH-60

**We Leave to Serve God**

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Congregational Response

*Joy to the World!*

PH-40

Postlude