

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE WITH CAROLS AND HOLY COMMUNION

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME

### CALL TO WORSHIP

P: The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.

**C: Praise be to God for light that shines in darkness.**

P: God commanded the light to shine out of darkness, to shine in our hearts and give light of the knowledge of his glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

**C: Praise be to God for the light in Jesus that enlightens every person.**

### OPENING CAROL "Green Book" 45 vs. 1 O Come, All Ye Faithful

*Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!  
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him Born the king of angels;  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come let us adore him,  
Oh come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

### PREPARING OUR HEARTS:

P: We gather in the name of our loving, saving God, father, Son, and Holy Spirit gathered on this holy night, to reflect on the mystery of birth,

**C: The awesome mystery of Christ's birth, the birth of God in the flesh.**

P: We pause on this holy eve, to step back from the Christmas rush.

**C: We need to keep our focus clear, and remember that Christ's birth is the reason for the season.**

P: Give us peace and calm in our hearts now, Lord, fill us with Your presence as we mark this Holy Night of Your birth.

**C: Let this be for us a special night, A Holy Night different from all others, because it is Your Birthnight.**

### CAROL "Green Book" 60 vs. 1 and 2 Hark the Herald Angels Sing

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all you nations, rise; Join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king."*

*Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king."*

### SCRIPTURE READING: "Child of Promise" Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,

on them has light shone.  
You have multiplied the nation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.  
For the yoke of his burden,  
and the staff for his shoulder,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be burned as fuel for the fire.  
For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

CAROL "Green Book" 56 vs. 1 and 2

The First Noel

*The first Noel the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.*

*They look-ed up and saw a star  
Shining in the east beyond them far;  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.*

SCRIPTURE READING: "Child of Grace" Titus 2:11-14

*For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.*

CAROL "Green Book" 71 vs. 1 and 2

Angels We have Heard on High

*Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
Gloria in excelsis Deo;*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
Gloria in excelsis Deo;*

### **SCRIPTURE READING: "Child of Joy" Luke 2: 1-14 (Read Responsively)**

P: In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled.

**C: This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was Governor of Syria.**

P: And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city.

**C: And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the City of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David.**

P: To be enrolled with Mary his betrothed, who was with child.

**C: And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered.**

P: And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**C: And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.**

P: And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear.

**C: And the angel said to them, "be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people;**

P: For to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

**C: And this will be a sign for you: You will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, and lying in a manger.**

P: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly host praising God and saying,

**C: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased!"**

### **CHOIR ANTHEM**

#### **STATEMENT OF BELIEF**

**C: I believe in God the Father almighty creator of the universe, all-powerful and all-loving God. I believe in Jesus the Christ, the child of Bethlehem God of God from all eternity, born in the flesh this Holy Night, born to be our Savior, born to suffer and die for our sins, born to be raised to conquer death, and give us hope of eternal life.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the presence of God among us now, the power of Christ within us, which makes holy this blessed eve, and renews our hearts in faith, binding together all the faithful, in bonds of Faith and Hope and Love, as we together keep the vigil, and reflect upon the mystery, of his birth on the earth, in this Holy Night.**

#### **CAROL "Green Book" 40 vs. 1 What Child is This?**

*What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!*

## SERMON "Great Expectation"

### CHRISTMAS PRAYER

#### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: Welcome to the celebration! God who supplies our every need has given us this meal to share.

**C: Lord, we thank You for the bread of eternal life.**

P: We come to the table, acknowledging our shortcomings and our need to experience Your presence in bread and wine.

**C: Lord, we thank You for the bread of eternal life.**

#### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

### THE DISTRIBUTION

#### CLOSING CAROL

#### Silent Night, Holy Night

(Individual candles will be lit during the singing, and extinguished after the Benediction)

*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 your holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.*

### BENEDICTION

#### **POSTLUDE**