

## Mid-Week Advent Service (December 15<sup>th</sup>)

### Pre-Service Music

### Welcome

### Procession

**Leader:** Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;

**All:** the light no darkness can over-come;

**Leader:** Stay with us now, for it is evening,

**All:** and the day is almost over.

**Leader:** Let your light scatter the darkness,

**All:** and shine within your people here.

### Evening Hymn

**All:**

1. Joyous light of heavenly glory, loving glow of God's own face, you who sing creation's story, shine on every land and race. Now as evening falls around us we shall raise our songs to you, God of daybreak, God of shadows, come and light our hearts anew.
2. In the stars that grace the darkness, in the blazing sun of dawn, in the light of peace and wisdom, we can hear your quiet song. Love that fills the night with wonder, love that warms the weary soul, Love that bursts all chains asunder, set us free and make us whole.
3. You who made the heaven's splendor, every dancing star of night, make us shine with gentle justice, let us each reflect your light. Mighty God of all creation, gentle Christ who lights our way, Loving Spirit of salvation, lead us on to endless day.

### Evening Thanksgiving

**Leader:** May God be with you all,

**All:** and also with you;

**Leader:** Let us sing our thanks to God,

**All:** It is right to give God thanks and praise.

**Leader:** Blessed are you, Creator of the universe - from old you have led your people by night and day.

May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your Word and your presence are the light of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation.

**All:** Amen

### Psalm 141

**All:** Let my prayer rise up like incense before you, the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.

**Group One:** O God, I call to you, \* come to me now; O hear my voice when I call to you, Let my prayer rise up like incense before you, the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you. Keep watch within me, God; deep in my heart may the light of your love be burning bright. Let my prayer rise up like incense before you, the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you. All praise to the God of all Creator of life; all praise go to Christ and the Spirit of love. Let my prayer rise up like incense before you, the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.

**\* At this point Group two starts**

**(Silence for meditation)**

**Leader:** May our prayers come before you, O God, as incense, and may your presence surround and fill us, so that in union with all creation, we might sing your praise and your love in our lives.

**All:** Amen.

**Leader:** The light shines in the darkness

**All:** and the darkness has not overcome it

**Reading:** [Luke 2:8-20](#)

**8** And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. **10** And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. **11** For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. **12** And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, **14** "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" **15** When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." **16** And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. **17** And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. **18** And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. **19** But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. **20** And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**Hymn**

**"What Child is This"**

1 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?

Chorus:

This, this is Christ, the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

2 Why lies He in such mean estate,  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.[Chorus]

3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
Come, peasant, king to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.[Chorus]

## Message “The Shepherds’ Faith”

### The Annunciation

**Luke 1: 26-28, 30-32, 38**

**Leader:** An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her, “Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most High.” And Mary said, “I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will.”

*(Immediately to “The Magnificat”)*

### The Magnificat

**Luke 1: 46-55**

1. My soul proclaims your greatness O God, and my spirit rejoices in servant here, and blessed be all my life though. Great and mighty are you. O Holy One, strong in your kindness evermore. How you favor the weak and lowly one, humbling the proud of heart.
2. You have cast the mighty down from their thrones, and uplifted the humble of wondrous things, and left the wealthy no part. Great and mighty are you, O Faithful One, strong is your justice strong your love. As you promised to Sarah and Abraham, Kindness forever more.
3. My soul proclaims your greatness O God, and my spirit rejoices in servant here, and blessed be all my life though.

### Litany and Prayers

**All:** (Hum first round then sing) God of mercy, Hold us in love,

**Leader:** In peace, in Peace, we pray to you:

**All:** God of mercy, Hold us in love,

**Leader:** For peace and salvation, we pray to you:

**All:** God of mercy, Hold us in love,

**Leader:** For peace between nations, for peace between peoples:

**All:** God of mercy, Hold us in love,

**Leader:** For us who are gathered to worship and praise your:

**All:** God of mercy, Hold us in love,

**Leader:** For all of your servants who live out your gospel:

**All:** God of mercy, Hold us in love,

**Leader:** For all those who govern, that justice might guide them:

**All:** God of mercy, Hold us in love,

**Leader:** For all those who labor in service to others:

**All:** God of mercy, Hold us in love,

**Leader:** Grant weather that nourishes all of creation:

**All:** God of mercy, Hold us in love,

**Leader:** Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from danger:

**All:** God of mercy, Hold us in love,

**Leader:** For all the beloved who rest in your mercy:

**All:** God of mercy, Hold us in love,

**Leader:** Help us, comfort us, all of our days:

**All:** Keep us, hold us, gracious God.

**Leader:** Great and merciful God, Source and Ground of all goodness and life, give to your people the peace that passes all understanding, and the will to live your Gospel of mercy and justice, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen

**Leader:** God, remember us in your love and teach us to pray:

**All:** Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your Kingdom come; your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

### **Final Blessing**

**Leader:** Let us bless our God:

**All:** praise and thanks to you.

**Leader:** May God, Creator bless us and keep us, may Christ be ever light for our lives, may the Spirit of Love be our guide and path, for all of our days.

**All:** Amen

### **Post-Service Music**