

**Christmas Eve 2020 -Candlelight Service**  
**Celebrating the Coming of Jesus in Scripture Lessons and Song**

*(The 3 purple and 1 pink candle should be lit before the Service)*

**Christmas Prologue** *(by the Worship Team)*

This Christmas Eve we recall the Advent journey we've been on with Abraham, Jacob, Naomi and Ruth, and David—a journey from stranger to friend, from despair to hope, from exclusion to inclusion, from stranger God to strangely present, from fear to welcome! And tonight we journey with Mary who is also confronted by the Stranger God—the God who shows up in the middle of the night, in the middle of nowhere, to a couple of nobodies, in a country in conflict. With Mary, we encounter the Christ-child showing up in these peculiar ways, yet in doing so bringing hope and peace to all the strangers and strangeness of the world.

**Opening Song: Once in Royal David's City (LUYH 87 v1,2,4)**

**Responsive Christmas Eve Call to Worship** *(by Worship Team)*

On this holiest of nights,

**we come, joining the shepherds  
who are stunned by wonder.**

On this most silent night,

**we come, our hopes and dreams  
joining those of Mary and Joseph.**

On this night of carols and candlelight,

**we come, our glad songs joining  
with the choirs of angels over us.**

**God's Greeting**

*(Led by Pastor Chad)*

God speaks to us in the waiting and watching,  
the hoping and longing,  
the sorrow, sighing and rejoicing.

Let us pray:

Speak to us now by your Word, Lord,  
as you have since the beginning of time.

Help us hear your promises of salvation  
in these lessons and carols.

Amen.

*(Every lesson is prefaced by saying the text and concluded with "The Word of the Lord; Thanks be to God".) It would be nice to have these phrases in the PP*

**First Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15; 17-19** read by John  
***God announces in the Garden of Eden that  
the seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head.***  
**Carol: Joy to the World (LUYH 92:1,3,4)**

**Second Lesson: Genesis 12: 1-8** read by Annette  
***God promises to faithful Abraham that the nations of the earth  
shall call his seed blessed.***  
**Carol: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus (LUYH 56 vs. 1-4)**

**Third Lesson: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7** read by John  
***Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by the prophet Isaiah.***  
**Carol: O Come, O Come Immanuel (LUYH 61:1,2,7)**

**Fourth Lesson: Micah 5: 2-4** read by Annette  
***The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.***  
**Carol: O Little Town of Bethlehem (LUYH 88:1,2,4)**

**Fifth Lesson: Luke 1:26-38, 46-56** read by John  
***The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.***  
**Carol: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"**  
*(solo/duet by Morgan and Deb)*

**Sixth Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25** read by Annette  
***Saint Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.***

**Liturgy read by Melissa Stark via video:**

Tonight we light the Christ Candle. *(light the white centre Christ candle)*

The Christ candle reminds us  
that God really did show up,  
not for a brief time but for a lifetime;  
not in disguise but fully Emmanuel,  
God with us.

**Carol: What Child is This? (LUYH 94:1-3)**

**Seventh Lesson: Luke 2: 8-20** read by John  
***The Shepherds go to the manger.***

**Carol: Angels We Have Heard on High (LUYH 82:1-3)**  
**Away in a Manger (LUYH 86 - trying to think of kids here)**

## **Meditation by Pastor Chad**

### **Prayer by Pastor Chad:**

Long-expected Jesus,  
You are not what we expected.  
You are so much more than we can ever understand.  
Help us this night  
to be the community of hope, peace, joy and love  
we were meant to be. Amen.

### **Lighting of the candles**

*(We need a few words of transition/instruction before candle lighting.  
Then sing Silent Night once all the candles are lit.)*

### **Song: Silent Night (LUYH 85)**

### **Liturgy for All:**

**God of birth, God of light,  
as we have heard again the story of your unexpected, mysterious,  
and loving ways in this world and with us your people,  
remind us that we are called to respond to you in unexpected ways.  
We pray in the name of the child  
who even now is coming and has come.  
Who is here with us in this place.  
Amen.**

### **Benediction**