

## December 26, 2021 Order of Worship

*Pre-service Song: Noel* (Tomlin)

### **Opening Words: Joy to the World**

It may seem naive,  
in a world of grief,  
to choose to live in joy;  
It may seem foolish,  
in a world where solemnity is power,  
to sing and dance to a different tune;  
It may seem cruel,  
in a world of suffering and injustice,  
to speak of light and celebration;  
But you have come, Jesus,  
to bring joy into our grief,  
light into our darkness,  
singing into our mourning;  
and it is an act of healing and proclamation  
to believe and embrace the joy you offer.

**Joy to the world!**  
**The Lord is come!**  
**Hallelujah!**

*Song: Joy to the World* (Henny Spelt bday song)

### **Call to Worship**

Glory to God in the highest!  
And hope to every discouraged heart.  
Glory to God in the highest!  
And peace to every conflicted soul.  
Glory to God in the highest!  
And joy to every downcast spirit.  
**Glory to God in the highest!**  
**And love to everyone.**  
**Let us sing praises to our God.**  
**Let us offer this light against the darkness.**

God's Greeting

We Greet Each Other

*Songs: Your Name (Christmas Version)* (Baloche)

### **Prayer of Confession**

On this first day past Christmas,  
as another year draws to a close,  
we come together before God and with one another,  
confessing:  
the ways in which we have been caught up  
in the frenzied spirit of the holidays  
and turned away from Your Spirit of Peace;  
the times we have focused on our own lives and desires,  
and neglected the voices of your children  
who cry out for Justice;

in our focus on making the season perfect,  
we have sometimes turned away from the hurting people  
and broken places in our world in need of Healing;  
and we have stubbornly closed our hearts to your amazing gift of Love.

**O Holy Child of Bethlehem, Word Become Flesh,  
our Savior and King, hear us as we humbly pray,**

**Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. Amen.**

*Song: Comfort, Comfort Now My People v 1,3 (Hank Wikkerink bday song)  
O Little Town of Bethlehem v 1, 4*

**Assurance of Pardon**

Hear the good news of Christmas.  
Today God reveals to us the wonders of divine love.  
For unto us a Child is born;  
unto us a Son is given.  
His name shall be called Wonderful,  
Counselor,  
the Mighty God,  
the Everlasting Father,  
the Prince of Peace.

**Prayer: God, Meet Us at the Wells**

*(inspired by John 4: 5-42 )*

God:  
meet us at the wells  
where we are lonely  
where we are forgotten  
where we are hurt by others  
and give us to drink  
of the grace that brings life again.

God:  
speak to us in those places  
where the sinners gather  
where the prejudices are made known  
where our histories are broadcast  
and give us to drink  
of the forgiveness that brings peace again.

God:  
Renew all that we are and have been  
fill us with a new future  
inspire us with re-creation  
pull us into resurrection  
and give us to drink  
from the promise of heaven. Amen.

Songs: What Child is This?

Prayers of the People

Children's Song: Away in a Manger

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: John 4:1-42

Sermon: Birthing Life

Song of Response: King of Kings (Hillsong)

God's Parting Blessing

Song: Ere Zij God

Offerings at the door

1. Woody Nook Ministries
2. World Renew