

Welcome

Song: *O Come All Ye Faithful*

Call to Worship

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Celebrate the coming of the Light.

O sing to the Lord a new song,
God's salvation is at hand.

Celebrate the coming of Salvation.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us.

Celebrate the coming of the Prince of Peace.

I bring you good news of great joy for all the people.

Celebrate the coming of Christ!

Song: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Song: *What Child Is This*

Scripture: John 1:1-5; 9-14

Advent and Christmas Candle Lighting

Into our darkness Christ has come;

Christ gives us hope of life and resurrection. [Light the candle of hope]

Into our darkness Christ has come;

Christ gives us love dwelling within us. [Light the candle of love]

Into our darkness Christ has come;

Christ gives us joy through his grace and truth. [Light the candle of joy]

Into our darkness Christ has come;

Christ gives us peace through knowledge of God. [Light the candle of peace]

Into our darkness Christ has come;

Christ is the Light of the World! [Light the Christ candle]

Greeting from God

Song: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

Call to Confession

When Jesus was born of the virgin Mary, he became like us in all things but sin. May we who have been reborn in him be free from our sinful ways. Let us confess our sin to God.

Confession

When we allow darkness to overcome the light, **forgive us, Lord.**

When we reduce Christmas to plastic and tinsel, **have mercy on us, Father.**

When hardness of heart keeps us from seeing and hearing and touching, **let your grace consume us, O God.**

When the wars around us are of no concern, **forgive us, Lord, and move us to compassion for those who suffer.**

When our caring is not extended to action, **move us to seek justice for our brothers and sisters.**

We come to confess our sinfulness before you and before each other.

We are but dust without your love.

Remove all barriers that divide us, and let there be no obstacle to our love for you and for one another. Amen.

Assurance

God has caused light to shine in our hearts, the light that is knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Therefore, hear and believe the Good News— In Jesus Christ, Immanuel, we are forgiven and empowered to love as God has first loved us. Go and sin no more!

Song: *Emmanuel Hallowed Manger Ground*

Message “This is Amazing News!”

Response to the Word:

A child has been born to us.

Glory to God in the highest heaven!

A savior has been given to us.

Glory to God in the highest heaven!

The grace of God has appeared in human form.

Glory to God in the highest heaven!

Salvation has come to all the earth.

Glory to God in the highest heaven!

Song: *Joy to the World*

Prayer of Response

Benediction

Song: *Silent Night* (during the song we will light the candles in the church to pass Christ's light to all people)