

**Order of Service  
December 24, 2021**

**Musical Prelude**

**Advent Wreath - The Christ Candle**

Reader 1: It is the time we have been waiting for.

Reader 2: Think about how hard it is to wait for something  
you've wanted for a long time. It's hard isn't it.  
Now imagine that it's God who is waiting for you!

Reader 1: Today we light all the candles of the Advent wreath.  
Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is

**All HOPE,**

the second candle is

**All PEACE,**

the third candle is

**All JOY,**

and the fourth candle is

**All LOVE.**

The centre candle is the Christ candle and it tells us that

**All JESUS IS WITH US**

*The Centre candle is lit.*

Reader 2 :Isaiah 9:6 – For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Reader 1: O God of hope, peace, joy, and love.

Reader 2: As Mary and Joseph welcomed you into the world,  
now help us welcome you into our lives.

**All      Give us courage to hope; strength to seek peace.  
Fill our spirits with joy; and our hearts with love.  
Through Jesus Christ, the Lord of all. Amen.**

**Carol O Come All Ye Faithful**

(vv 1, 3 & 5)

VU 60

1

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:  
come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

3

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God in the highest: R

5

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: R

**Welcome & Announcements**

**\* Land Declaration**

**\* Dedication of the Offering**

*“A Very Sweet Nativity Story”*

**Silence in the Night**

**A Prayer for Christmas Eve & St. John’s Prologue**

## **Carol Twas In the Moon of Wintertime**

(vv 1, 2 & 4)

VU 71

1

'Twas in the moon of wintertime,  
when all the birds had fled,  
that mighty Gitchi Manitou  
sent angel choirs instead;  
before their light the stars grew dim,  
and wandering hunters heard the hymn:

Refrain:

Jesus your King is born,  
Jesus is born,  
in excelsis gloria.

2

Within a lodge of broken bark  
the tender babe was found,  
a ragged robe of rabbit skin  
enwrapped his beauty round;  
but as the hunter braves drew nigh,  
the angel song rang loud and high: R

4

O children of the forest free,  
the angel song is true,  
the holy child of earth and heaven  
is born today for you.  
Come, kneel before the radiant boy,  
who brings you beauty, peace, and joy: R

## **The Christmas Story: *The Messiah Foretold***

### **Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7**

*after the reading*

One: In the beginning was the Word and is the light of all people.

**All    The light shines in the darkness,  
          and the darkness has not overcome it.**

### **Carol Once in Royal David's City**

(vv 1, 2 &4)

VU 62

1

Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattleshed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed.  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.

2

He came down to earth from heaven  
who, with God, is over all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall.  
There among the poor and lowly  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

4

And our eyes at last shall see him,  
through his own redeeming love;  
for that child who seemed so helpless  
is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on  
to the place where he is gone.

**The Christmas Story *The Birth of Jesus Christ***

**Luke 2: 1-7**

*after the reading*

One: The Word of the Lord became flesh

**All And dwelt among us.**

**Carol Go! Tell it on the Mountain**

VU 43

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere.

Go, tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born.

1

While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. R

2

The shepherds feared and trembled  
when lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Saviour's birth! R

3

Down in a lonely manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent our salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn. R

**The Christmas Story *The Shepherds & Angels***

**Luke 2: 8-14**

*after the reading*

One: Behold! I Bring you Glad Tidings of Great Joy!

**All    Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace,  
          good-will towards all people.**

**Carol Hark! The Herald Angel Sing**

VU 48

1

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
'Glory to the newborn King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!'  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim,  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
Glory to the newborn King!

2

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail, the incarnate deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel! R

3

Hail, the heavenborn Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,

risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth. R

### **The Christmas Story *Mary's Treasure***

**Luke 2: 15-20**

*after the reading*

One: My soul magnifies the Lord,  
**All And my spirit rejoices in God, my saviour**

### **The Ministry of Music**

### **The Christmas Story *Wise Men from the East***

**Mat 2: 1-2, 9-11**

*after the reading*

One: The dawn from on high has broken upon us  
**All to give light to those who sit in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

### **Carol: We Three Kings of Orient Are....**

I.  
We Three Kings of Orient are;  
Bearing gifts we travel afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.

Refrain:

O – star of wonder, star of light,  
Star with royal beauty bright,

Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.

2.

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,  
Gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.

3.

Frankincense to offer have I  
incense owns a Deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, voices raising,  
Worshipping God on high.

4.

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in a stone cold tomb.

5.

Glorious now behold him arise;  
King and God and sacrifice:  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Sounds through the earth and skies.

### **Sermon "Gloria In Excelsis Deo"**

### **Carol & Candle-lighting Silent Night, Holy Night VU 67**

I

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.

2

Silent night! Holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight:  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah,  
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.

3

Silent night! Holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

**Prayers by Candle light**

**Christmas Benediction**

**Passing the Peace of Christmas**

**Musical Postlude**