

Worship for the Lord's Day

December 24, 2017 – The Nativity of Christ
7:00 PM

*An asterisk * indicates standing, as you are able.
The congregation's responses are in bold italics.*

The Church is Gathered

Welcome The Lord be with you. *And also with you.*

Prelude *O Little Town of Bethlehem* arr. Robert Thygerson

In order to prepare for worship, you are invited to pray silently during the prelude.

* **Hymn** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* Hymnal #31

To Praise God's Name

Lighting of the Advent Candles The Roark Family

Call to Worship

Sing to the Lord a new song;
Sing to the Lord, all the earth!

*We declare God's glory among the nations,
God's marvelous deeds among the peoples!*

For great is the Lord,
And greatly to be praised!

*Splendor and majesty are before him;
Strength and beauty are in his sanctuary!*

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
Come, let us worship God!

* **Hymn** *Angels We Have Heard on High* Hymnal #23

Unison Prayer of Confession

God Incarnate, Word made flesh, we confess that we are terrified of your glory; for in glory's light we see plainly all that is wrong in the world. We see that we fail to obey you, turning from your path to seek self-satisfaction. Forgive us, we pray, and help us not to be afraid. Like the shepherds, we want to follow and find you. In the Savior's name we pray. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Choral Kyrie *Lord, Have Mercy, Christ, Have Mercy*

Assurance of Forgiveness

Response Forgiveness is ours in Jesus Christ. *Thanks be to God!*

* **Song of Praise** *Gloria Patri* Hymnal #579

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.*

* **Passing the Peace of Christ**

The peace of Christ is with you. *And also with you.*

To Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

This is the word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God!*

Sermon *A Harmony of the Birth of Christ*

To Thank God

* **Hymn** *Joy to the World!* Hymnal #40

* **Profession of Faith** *Westminster Confession*

His human nature being thus united to the divine, the Lord Jesus was sanctified and anointed with the Holy Spirit beyond all measure. He had in him all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, and in him it pleased the Father that all fullness should dwell. God's purpose was that Jesus, being holy, harmless, undefiled, and full of grace and truth, should be completely equipped to execute the office of mediator and guarantor. Jesus did not take this office himself but was called to it by his Father, who gave and commanded him to use all power and judgment.

Prayers by and for the People • The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

To Depart to Serve God

* **Hymn** *Silent Night, Holy Night* Hymnal #60

During the hymn, ushers will share a flame from the Christ Candle by going down the center aisle. Please share the light of Christ with your neighbor. When all the candles are lit, we will process outside for the benediction.

* **Charge and Benediction**