

Worship for the Eve of Christmas

December 24, 2019 – Nativity of Christ
7:00 PM

The congregation's responses are in bold italics.

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

Prelude *Sweet Little Jesus Boy* Robert MacGimsey

Advent Call to Worship

Advent Prayer of Confession

O God, you give us your Good News and call us into a new covenant relationship with you. Help us to prepare the way of the Lord Jesus Christ. Let the valleys be lifted up!

Draw us away from degrading thoughts and actions, and lift from us depressions and worry.

Through humble people, redeem your world, O God. Let the mountains be leveled off!

End our pride and take away our arrogance: save us from false hope and unwarranted presumption.

Through faithful people, redeem your world, O God. Let the crooked be made straight!

Forgive our sin, and pardon our wrongdoing; defeat evil and overcome the power of death.

Through saved people, redeem your world, O God. Let the rough be made smooth!

Help us grow in understanding, and give us wisdom to discern that which is good and true.

Through sanctified people, redeem your world, O God. Let all people see the salvation of our God.

Redeem your world, and make all things new, and bring us into your holy and perfect presence, now and for all eternity.

Keep us humble and faithful. Save us and sanctify us, O God.

For the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

See the salvation of God; find comfort in his strong arms.

Thanks be to God!

* **Hymn** *What Child Is This* Hymnal #53

Pastoral Prayer adapted from the Magnificat

Remember your mercy, O Lord, and help us,

According to the promise of your steadfast love.

Let all generations see your blessing,

For your name is holy and your mercy is great.

Show the strength of your hand,

And lift the burdens of the afflicted.

Work wonders for the humble,

And scatter the plans of the proud.

Look with favor on the lowly,

And cast down to tyrants from their thrones.

Fill the hungry with good things,

And empty the hands of the greedy.

Then we will sing out with joy and glorify you forever;

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.

New Testament Lesson *John 1:1-5* p.922

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

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon *"The Incarnate God"*

* **Hymns** *Silent Night & Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

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**

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.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

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.

Silent night, holy night
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their
watching
O'er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.
[Refrain]

The shepherds feared and
trembled,
When lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed the Savior's birth.
[Refrain]

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.
[Refrain]

An asterisk * indicates standing, as you are able.