

Christmas Eve 2011

8:00 p.m.

+Stand as you are able

Worship Leader

Peg Jones

Prelude

"Breath of Heaven"

Beth McBride, flute & Carole Hall, keyboard

+Call to Worship

Psalm 96 p. 815 (no musical response)

+Opening Hymn

p. 218

Welcoming Chimes

Unison Opening Prayer

O Jesus, light of the world, illumine us with the vision of a new world - a world in which hate yields to love, and people live in reconciliation and peace, a world where homes are places of encouragement, kindness and love. Grant that your living in us may bring this into being. Amen.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Dick & Dianne Moore

"While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger." (Luke 2:6-7)

Tonight, angels far and near sing tender lullabies; well-worn fabric full of years holds in the warmth of parental love; animals and shepherds crowd in tight, glowing with adoration, while a muffled cry squeezes out to greet the world.

Tonight we give thanks for every child among us. Each new birth - regardless of circumstances - reminds us of the preciousness of life, the potential of tomorrow, the promise of God.

On this Christmas Eve, we light the Christ candle for the child-King, the infant-Redeemer, the lowly-Lord. And now we know ... He is born and nothing will ever be the same!

Special Music "In the Bleak Mid-Winter" Ken Anderson, Trumpet

+Affirmation of Faith

A Christmas Creed

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel that began in Bethlehem.

I believe in Him whose spirit is glorified in a little town, of whose coming only shepherds saw the sign, and for whom the crowded inn could find no room.

I believe in Him whom the kings ignored, and the crowds could never understand, whose paths were among the common people, whose welcome came from persons with hungry hearts. I believe in Him who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible, whose cradle was a mother's arms, whose home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth, who by His love brought sinners back to purity, and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.

I confess my everlasting need of God, the need of forgiveness for my greed and selfishness, the need of life for empty souls, the need of love for hearts grown cold.

I acknowledge the glory of all that is like Christ, the steadfastness of friends, the beauty of compassion, the miracle of many hearts made kind at Christmas, the courage of those who dare to resist hatred and violence.

I acknowledge in Christ, a faith that sees beyond the partial fact, a trust in life redeemed, that looks beyond our present evil.

I pray that this redemption may begin in us, as we sing together now... "Gloria, in Excelsis Deo!" *(twice)*

The Story of Christmas: Lessons and Carols

- "O, Holy Night" Evelyn Penn, vocalist
- First Lesson Luke 2:1-7
- "Away in a Manger" Walt Westbrook, Classical Guitar
- "He Is Born" Laura Bender, Walt Westbrook
- Second Lesson Luke 2:8-14
- "Come Down to Bethlehem" Choir
- Third Lesson Luke 2:15-20
- "Angels We Have Heard on High" Walt Westbrook, Classical Guitar
- A Word for the Evening Rev. Walt Westbrook
- +Carol "What Child is This" p. 219
- Holy Communion (See Insert)
- During Communion, you are invited to sing verse 1 & 2 as each carol is played: 217, 230, 234, 238, 240, 245*
- Receiving the Evening's Offering
(This evening's offering will be given to UMFS.)
- The Story of "Silent Night" Peg Jones
The individual candles will be lighted during the story.
- +Carol "Silent Night" p. 239
- + Benediction
- + Postlude "Joy to the World"