

## THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

## THE PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

## THE SHARING OF CHRIST'S LIGHT AND CLOSING RESPONSE

### ***"Silent Night"***

(The pastor shall receive a light from the Christ candle. He/she shall then light the ushers' candles.

They, in turn, shall light the candles of the persons at the center aisle in each pew.

The light is to be passed to the persons beside you until it arrives at the end of the pew.)

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child. Hov infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherd 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!

## THE CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS DAY

### \*THE BENEDICTION

(Please extinguish your candle following the benediction.

There will be an usher stationed at each exit to assist you with your candle as you leave the sanctuary.)

### \*THE POSTLUDE

*"Joy to the World"*

Hymn 246



# The Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

December 24, 2006

11:00 p.m. o'clock

*My heart is open wide tonight  
For stranger, kith or kin. Christ is born; give him glory!  
Christ has come down from heaven; receive him!  
Christ is now on earth; exalt him!*

(The asterisk (\*) designates when the congregation will please stand.  
Worshippers who find standing difficult are invited to remain seated.)

**Bold print** is read or sung by the congregation.

(Worshippers are encouraged to turn off their cell phones while they are in the sanctuary.)

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## THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

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### THE CHRISTMAS PRELUDE

*"O Little Town of Bethlehem"* (Hymn 230)

Wilbur Held

### THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: Listen to the message that echoes through the streets this night!

**All: Christ is born! Peace on earth! God has comforted his people!**

Minister: Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass.

**All: Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and his name shall be called wonderful, counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.**

### \*THE CHRISTMAS CAROL

*"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

Hymn No. 238

### THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7 (Pew Bible page 67)

### THE SPECIAL MUSIC *"Breath of Heaven"*

Melanie May  
Chris Eaton/Amy Grant

### THE EPISTLE LESSON

Galatians 4:1-7 (Pew Bible page 1130)

### THE SPECIAL MUSIC *"Star of Bethlehem"*

Liz Harper and Katelyn Kingseed  
Rick Vale

### \*THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Luke 2:1-20 (Pew Bible page 992)

### A FESTIVAL OF CAROLS

(The congregation will remain seated as we join together in the singing of the carols)

***"O Little Town of Bethlehem"***

Hymn No. 230

***"Away in a Manger"***

Hymn No. 217

### LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*"What Child is This"*

Rachel Bates  
William C. Dix

### THE OFFERING

The Offertory

*"Midnight Round the Manger"*

Jay Rouse

(The offering this evening is designated to go to the Bishops Christmas Fund for Children.)

### THE CHRISTMAS EVE MEDITATION

Pastor Beutler

### THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

Minister: Let us pray.

**All: Everlasting Father, whose glorious love and holy righteousness appeared in Jesus Christ, we adore thee for this night of fulfillment and rejoicing. As we behold the wonder of your goodness, we bow in humility and repentance. The innocence of the Babe rebukes our selfishness, hardness, and un-brotherliness. Forgive our sins. We would make room in our hearts for your presence by letting evil be driven out and your spirit be born anew. Then shall we know the gifts of your peace and goodwill. Amen.**

### THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION