

THE CHRISTMAS EVE MEDITATION

Pastor Stephen Beutler

THE CLOSING CAROL OF CHRISTMAS

**“Silent Night”**

Children’s Choir, Kyle Hartzog, soloist  
Organ Interlude of “Silent Night”  
(Let the congregation remain seated.)

(Read silently as the light is distributed.)

*God showed His love for us by sending His only Son into the world  
so that we may have life through Him.*

*This is what love is: It is not that we have loved God, but that He loved us  
and sent His Son to be the means by which our sins are forgiven.*

*The Word was the source of life, and this life brought light to humankind.*

*The life shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put in out.*

**“Silent Night”**

(The pastor shall receive a light from the Christ candle. The pastor 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. We request that only children over eight years of age hold their own candle.)

Silent night, holy night, all is clam, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child. Hoy 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 BENEDICTION

(Please extinguish your candle following the benediction.)

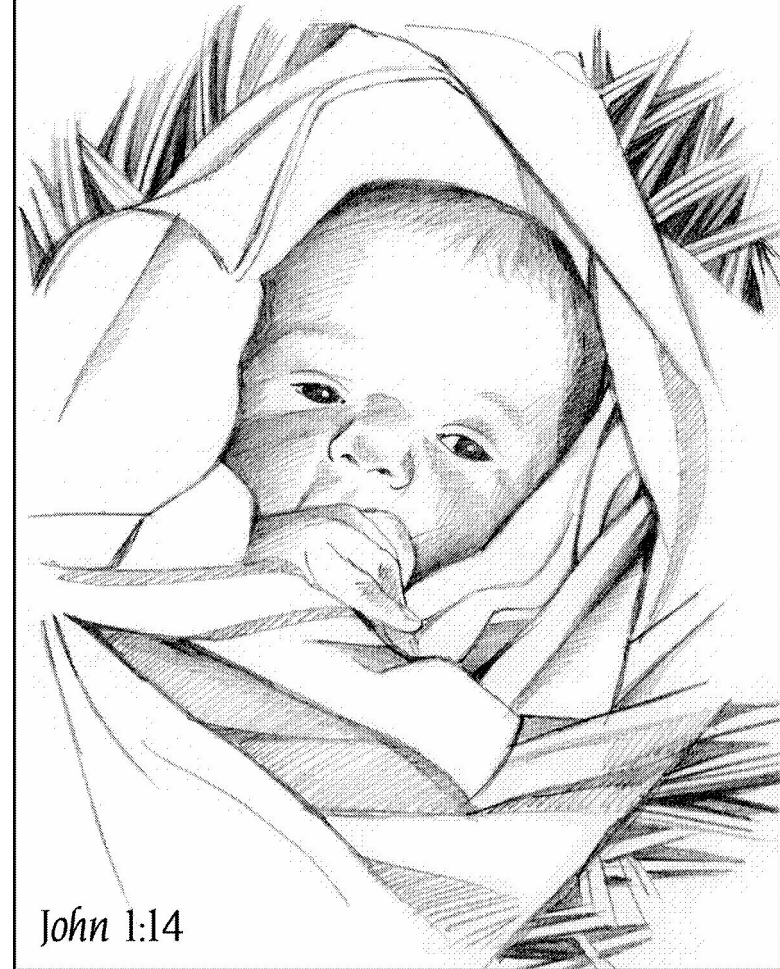
There will be an usher stationed at each exit to receive your candle from you as you leave the sanctuary.)

THE POSTLUDE

*“Joy to the World”*

Hymn 246

*The Word became flesh and  
made his dwelling among us.*



*John 1:14*

# The Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols

December 24, 2004

5:30 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. )

Childcare is available for the Nursery thru Kindergarten.

## THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

### THE PRE-SERVICE CHRISTMAS MUSIC

### 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 OPENING PRAYER

### \*THE HYMN

**"O Come, All Ye Faithful"**

Hymn No. 234

(Candles to be lit by Dale & Grace Kingseed and grandchildren Emily & Meghan Waters and Lauren, Drew & Katelyn Kingseed)

### THE FIRST READING OF THE SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:2-7 (Pew Bible page 67)  
(Christ's birth and kingdom foretold by Isaiah)

### THE ALTAR CHOIR

*"Born in a Stable"*

THE LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Robert Thygerson

### THE SECOND READING OF THE SCRIPTURE

(The Angel Gabriel's Annunciation to Mary)

Luke 1:26-35, 38

### THE SPECIAL MUSIC

*"What Child Is This"*

THE LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

Rachel Bates  
William C. Dix

### THE THIRD READING OF THE SCRIPTURE

(St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus)

Luke 2:1-7

### THE CAROL CHORISTERS and CHERUB CHOIR

*"The Night That Heaven Came Down"*

THE LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

Celeste and David Clydesdale

### THE FOURTH READING OF THE SCRIPTURE

(The Shepherds go to the manger)

Luke 2:8-16

### THE CHRISTMAS ANTHEM

**"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"** sung to the tune of "Hyfrydol"

THE LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Hymn 384

### THE OFFERING

The Offertory

*"O Holy Night"*

Andrea and Gail Blazier  
Adolphe Adams

### THE FIFTH READING OF THE SCRIPTURE

(John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation)

John 1:1-14

### THE CHRISTMAS CAROL

**"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"**

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Hymn 240