

*THE BENEDICTION

*Following the Benediction, please extinguish your candle.
There will be an usher stationed at each exit to receive your candle from you as you
leave the sanctuary.*

*POSTLUDE

Toccata on "In Dulci Jubilo"

Page C. Long



Celebrating the Light of Christ

“Celebrating the Light of Christ”

Christmas Eve Candlelight Family Service
5:30 pm

“Let your light shine before all people that they will glorify God in heaven.”

The asterisk () designates when the congregation will please stand.*

Worshippers who find standing difficult are invited to remain seated.

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

Bold print is read or sung by the congregation.

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Rejoice, for God is with us—Emmanuel.

Congregation: **In the darkness of our world shines God’s holy light.**

Leader: Now there is reason to hope, to love, to laugh, to live.

Congregation: **God is truly with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God!**

*PROCESSIONAL CAROL **“O Come, All Ye Faithful”** Hymn No. 234

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

The first candle is lit.

Leader: We light the first candle, reminding us of God’s promise for peace on earth.

The second candle is lit.

Leader: We light the second candle, reminding us that we are to dispel the darkness of sickness, poverty, injustice, and suffering all around us.

The third candle is lit.

Leader: We light the third candle, reminding us to be constant and patient in our relationships and in our living.

The fourth candle is lit.

Leader: We light the fourth candle, reminding us that the way of following Jesus is the way of righteousness, trust, and faithfulness. Let us pray together:

All: O God, we have watched for your coming with longing and expectation, with patience and hope. Now, as the prophets promised so long ago, you have come to us once again; and with the shepherds, we are filled with wonder and amazement.

The Christ Candle is lit.

Leader: Lord, you come as a tiny, fragile baby; yet we know that you are God and you are with us. May the flame of this candle remind us that you are the light of the world and if we follow you, we will never walk in darkness, but will have the true light of life.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL **“O Little Town of Bethlehem”** Hymn No. 230

THE CHRISTMAS STORY Luke 2:1-7

CHORAL ANTHEM *“He Came Down”* Altar Choir
Geron Davis

THE CHRISTMAS STORY Luke 2:8-14

*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL **“Angels We Have Heard on High”** (vs 1-3) Hymn No. 238

THE OFFERING Vesper Handbells
“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” arr. Cynthia Dobrinski
The offering this evening goes entirely to the “Bishop’s Christmas Offering” for children.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY Luke 2:15-20

CHORAL ANTHEM *“Goin’ to Bethlehem”* Jay Althouse

MEDITATION Pastor Steve Beutler

SPECIAL MUSIC Brass Quintet
“O Holy Night” arr. by Chuck Marohnic

*CLOSING CAROL OF CHRISTMAS AND SHARING OF THE LIGHT

The pastor will receive the light from the Christ candle. The pastor will 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”

**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!**