

Christmas Eve Worship  
December 24, 2020  
7:30 pm

Call to Worship

One: This year, we dreamed of world peace.

**All: We dreamed of deep breaths and restful sleep.**

One: We dreamed of love that lasts and suffering that passes.

**All: We dreamed of doors open wide and a cure to disease.**

One: We dreamed, because to dream is to believe.

**All: For to dream is to hope; to dream is to see.**

One: So make room in your being to dream yet again,

**All: Of a world without fear, and a God that draws near.**

One: For it is almost Christmas.

**All: Love is almost here.**

Hymn ~ "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Lanna Waterman

O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant;  
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold him,  
born the King of angels!  
O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels;  
sing in exultation;  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all  
glory in the highest!  
O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ, the Lord!

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Hymn “Angels, From the Realms of Glory”

Punkie Sinesiou

Angels, from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o’er all the earth;  
you, who sang creation’s story,  
now proclaim Messiah’s birth:  
come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king!

All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising  
to the eternal Three in One:  
come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king!

Prayer of the People

We come to you tonight with dreams tucked into our pockets, admitting that at times it feels risky to dream. At times it feels risky to ask for too much, to believe in that which we cannot see. So instead we make wishes on stars and search for luck in clover fields. Instead of sinking into you, we try to control the narrative. However, somewhere rumbling deep in our heart, there is a dream of a better world, trapped like a caged bird. Open our eyes to you in our midst. Give us the confidence of Mary to sing into the mystery. Dust your dream for us off the shelves of our hearts until once more, we are those who dream. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God,

If we listen closely, we can almost hear the angels sing.

If we listen closely, we can almost hear the bleats of sheep following shepherds,  
And the hooves of confused barn animals.

If we listen closely, we can almost hear the innkeeper say, “No room.”

If we listen closely, we can almost hear the star whisper, “Follow me.”

If we listen closely, God, we can almost hear you.

So as we turn to your Word, Holy Writer, don’t let us miss a thing— The smell  
of the hay, the cool of the air, the way Mary cherished this wild dream in her  
heart. We want to hear it all; we don’t want to miss a thing. So today we pray—  
can you help us listen closely? Amen.

Hymn “Joy to the world, the Lord is come!”

Chris Norton

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her king;

let every heart prepare him room,

and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace,

and makes the nations prove

the glories of his righteousness

and wonders of his love,

and wonders of his love,

and wonders, wonders of his love.

Luke 2

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world  
should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while  
Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be  
registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to  
the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house  
and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was  
engaged and who was expecting a child. 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, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

“In the Bleak Mid Winter”

Rick Snyder and Lanna Waterman

Christmas Eve Communion

Invitation to the table

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is good to give you thanks, O God, source of abundant life. In Jesus is your eternal Word, the reflection of your glory.

In him you have become one with us that we might become one with you.

Thank you for Jesus, who proclaimed your dream of peace. He gave himself for our weary world, accepting death so that we might live and setting us free for love.

Remembering his death and resurrection, and longing for his coming in glory, we offer you these gifts of bread and wine and our lives in thanks and praise. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Pour out your Spirit upon us, that we might be a people of grace and truth, bearing good news of joy in every season. Then bring us at the last with Mary and Joseph and all your saints to that vision of eternal splendor for which you have created us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, O God, in songs of everlasting praise. And we continue in prayer as Jesus taught as together we pray our Lord's Great Prayer:

**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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen**

Words of Institution

Sharing the elements

Prayer after Communion

Christ Jesus, born among us, as a mother feeds her child with her body, so you feed us with yours, giving us the bread to eat and the cup to drink. May these gifts of grace nourish us deeply, that we may become your body in the world and live as instruments of your great love. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn "Silent Night"

Kay Shults

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 Al-le-lu-ia!

Christ the Savior is born!  
Christ the Savior is born!  
Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night  
Son of God, oh, 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  
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth