

**Order of Worship  
for  
Christmas Eve  
Worship for our Families with Young Children  
December 24, 2022**

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

*What do you hear?*

**The music of Christmas, the laughter of children, the excited chat of neighbors,  
and the ringing of bells.**

*What do you see?*

**The Advent Wreath, the Christmas Tree, happy faces, twinkling eyes, family and  
friends.**

*Why have we come together?*

**To sing praises to our Lord and King. To celebrate the birth of our Savior and  
God, Jesus Christ!**

*Jesus is with us every hour and in every place. He blesses us with grace and love.*

*He keeps us ever at His side. He holds us in His arms and rocks us gently in His  
peace. Let us pray: dear Father, we come to celebrate the birth of Your Son, Jesus*

*Christ. By the power of Your Holy Spirit, open our ears to hear of Your love and  
grace. May the light of Your love burn brightly in our hearts. In the Name of Jesus,*

*we pray.*

**Amen!**

**MESSAGE**

***“The Christmas Story”***

*Through the Eyes of the Wise Men*

**Rev. David Hewitt**

**CAROL**

***“O Little Town of Bethlehem”***

**LESSON**

Matthew 2:1-12

**From the Gospel of Matthew,  
chapter two, verses one through twelve.**

**Matthew writes:**

*In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, “Where is the child who has been born King of the Jews? For we observed His star in the east and have come to pay Him homage.” <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:*

*<sup>6</sup> ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,  
for from you shall come a Ruler  
who is to shepherd My people Israel.’ ”*

*<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the Child, and when you have found Him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay Him homage.” <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the Child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the Child with Mary His mother, and they knelt down and paid Him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.*

**CAROL**

**“We Three Kings”**

*(with a special message between verses)*

*Boys and girls, we are about to sing to “our perfect light,” the baby Jesus as we sing “Away in a Manger, no crib for a bed.” Kids, you may go to your seats now before we sing together. Thank you all SO MUCH for coming up here and listening to me!*

**CAROL**

**“Away in a Manger”**

**The Story of the Candy Cane**

**THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

*We light the big white Christmas candle to symbolize the Light of Christ which shone in Bethlehem so long ago, yet which shines again for us this Holy Day. But first let us light the other four special candles.*

*The first Candle we light is called HOPE, and it is a reminder that God's promises are true.*

*The second Candle is called PEACE, God's gentle loving peace for our lives...a peace the world cannot give.*

*The third Candle is called JOY, because of the joy of God's absolute presence in our lives.*

*The fourth Candle is called LOVE, because of God's great love for us seen in the Gift of His Son, Jesus, who is the Light of our World.*

*This Christ Candle completes the lighting of our Advent Wreath. You see that this Christ Candle is surrounded by these four other candles which were lit the four Sundays before Christmas.*

*Now let us declare together a SPECIAL WISH for everybody! Repeat after me.*

**May we see...the Light of Christ...in one another!**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**  
Our Father in heaven  
hallowed be Your name,  
Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.

**Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power  
and the glory are Yours  
now and forever.  
Amen.**

**CAROL**  
**"Joy to the World"**

**BENEDICTION**  
*May the mystery of that Baby born in Bethlehem go with you this evening, and draw you back to Him again and again, in the Name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*  
**Amen!**

**CAROL**  
**"Silent Night, Holy Night"**

*Go in peace and serve the Lord!*  
**Thanks be to God!**

**Minister:** Rev. David Hewitt  
**Pianist:** David Moscrip

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