

# CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Christmas Eve, 2023

7:00 p.m.

**Prelude**

Dr. Carl Bradley, Organist

*We Three Kings*

Arr. Diane Bish

**Welcome and Greeting**

Pastor Kit Tomlinson & Dr. Leslie Tomlinson

† **Opening Hymn No 174**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

1 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.

**Refrain:** O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!

2 God of God, and Light of Light begotten,  
Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God, begotten, not created: **[Refrain]**

3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!  
O sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest: **[Refrain]**

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: **[Refrain]**

† **Affirmation of Faith**

Pastor Kit Tomlinson

*The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
the third day he rose from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen**

**Lighting the Candle of the Christ Child**

Kit, Leslie, True & Jedidiah Tomlinson

**Carol No. 192***O Little Town of Bethlehem*

1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
 how still we see thee lie!  
 Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
 the silent stars go by;  
 yet in thy dark streets shineth  
 the everlasting light.  
 The hopes and fears of all the years  
 are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary,  
 and gathered all above  
 while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
 their watch of wond'ring love.  
 O morning stars together  
 proclaim the holy birth,  
 and praises sing to God the King  
 and peace to all the earth!

3 How silently, how silently,  
 the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
 So God imparts to human hearts  
 the blessings of his heav'n.  
 No ear may hear his coming,  
 but in this world of sin,  
 where meek souls will receive him, still  
 the dear Christ enters in.

**Prayer**

Dr. Tomlinson

**Carol No. 197***Away in a Manger*

1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
 the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
 The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
 the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
 but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
 I love Thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
 and stay by my cradle until morning is nigh.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
 close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
 Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
 and take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

**Offertory Prayer**

Dr. Tomlinson

**Offertory***O Holy Night*  
Adam

Dr. Richard Novak, Soloist

**Offertory Response No. 180 (v. 3)**

MENDELSSOHN

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!**  
**Hail the Sun of Righteousness!**  
**Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in his wings.**  
**Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,**  
**Born to raise us from the earth. Born to give us second birth.**  
**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Message

Pastor Tomlinson

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**Invitation**

Leader: Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

**Confession and Pardon**

**People: Great God of Presence and Promised Coming,  
We confess that we have not loved you with our  
whole heart.**

**We have failed to fulfill your desire for us to love  
one another.**

**We have not followed the paths you have given us,  
choosing instead to follow our own.**

**We have broken relationships,**

**We chase consumer desires,**

**We treat those who wait on us as less than human.**

**We spend our time and money,  
on gifts for those who give us gifts.**

**We spend time with family and friends out of obligation  
rather than sincere love.**

**The mouth of the poor is still hungry for mercy,**

**The cause of the oppressed is still thirsty for justice.**

**Free us for joyful obedience, through the Advent of Christ,  
Our Lord, Our Messiah. Amen.**

Leader: Good News! God so loved the world that he gave us a gift:  
Emmanuel, God with us. This proves God's love toward us!  
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**Congregation: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

**All: Glory to God. Amen.**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior, and at his birth the angels sang glory to you in the highest and peace to your people on earth. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory,  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader: We offer our praise and thanks. We offer our very selves, as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

(Continued on the back of the bulletin.)

**All: Christ has died, Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again!**

Leader: All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

**Receiving the Bread and the Cup** (The congregation will come at the direction of the ushers beginning with those seated in the balcony.)

### A TIME OF INSTRUCTION FOR CANDLELIGHTING

#### Candlelight Anthem

FMC Choir

*God So Loved This Silent Night*

Pepper Choplin

During the choir's singing of *God So Loved This Silent Night*, we will pass the light from the Christ Candle on the altar to the entire congregation, with the help of our ushers. When the light comes to you, tilt your unlighted candle to your neighbor's lighted candle. Keep your lighted candle upright while your neighbor lights his or her candle from yours. Please help everyone around you stay safe by keeping candles away from paper, hair, and clothing.

Upon cue from our choir director, we will begin singing *Silent Night* together as a congregation. Please remain in your place while singing. At the conclusion of *Silent Night*, please extinguish your candle; our ushers will escort you toward the exits of the Sanctuary, while our choir continues to sing. Please leave in silence and have a blessed Christmas.

#### † Candlelight Carol No. 199

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

1 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.

2 Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!

3 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.

4 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.

† *Please stand, as able.*

**God Bless and Merry Christmas!**