

# Christmas Eve - 2021



**PRELUDE** It Came Upon A Midnight Clear arr. Uehlein

## †CALL TO WORSHIP

One: If you are like Joseph, and you are seeking truth,

**All: There is room here for you.**

One: If you are like Mary, and you are seeking rest,

**All: There is a seat here for you.**

One: If you are like the wise men, and you are looking for a sign,

**All: These candles are here for you.**

One: If you are like the angels, and you cannot help but sing,

**All: There is a melody here for you.**

One: Come in. You are in God's house.

**Love was born tonight, and there is love here for you.**

All: Let us worship the God of love.

## OPENING PRAYER

†HYMN #22 **Angels from the Realms of Glory**

Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye, who sang creation's story  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth;

*Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the new-born King!*

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
Yonder shines the infant light: *Refrain*

Sages, leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great desire of nations;  
Ye have seen His natal star: *Refrain*

All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Ever more your voices raising  
To the eternal Three in One: *Refrain*

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

McCarthy Family

Reader 1: Tonight we offer the Lights of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love to illumine the Door of Welcome. And we add the brightest light of all...the Light of the Newborn Jesus. It shines bright like the star that rose over Bethlehem. May this light also shine in our hearts, in our lives, and in our church. May this light awaken us to possibilities and lead us to greater hospitality. There IS room in this Inn, a House for the Holy.

*Reader 2: Love comes to us at Christmas. Love comes to heal our souls. Love brings an invitation that our hearts might be made whole. As we gather at the stable in the darkness, glad and grateful for the sacred in our midst, for wonder and delight, Christ is born in us this night.*

Reader 1: The Light of Christ be with you!

**Congregation: And also with you!**

**ADVENT RESPONSE** **Christ Be Our Light** Farrell

**Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.**

**Shine through the darkness.**

**Christ be our light! Shine in your**

**Church gathered today.**

**SONG** Mary Did You Know? Green/Lowry

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: Lord, we are so excited. Christmas Eve is here. We are impatient to hear the whole story. Slow us down again, Lord. As we hear Mary say, "Yes!" to God's good news, help us to remember that God continually calls us to be those who will bear the good news to those in need. Forgive us when we forget to do that. Heal our wounds and bind up our spirits. Enable us to go into your world offering our lives, our gifts, our talents, for your glory. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## THE WORD

### SONG OF INVOCATION

Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne Elliot

**O come to my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**There's room in my heart for You.**

**FIRST READING** Isaiah 9:2-7

**ANTHEM** What Child Is This? arr. Schackley  
(Harriet McDonald, Miriam Walker, Warren Way)

**SECOND READING** Luke 2:1-20

**SERMON** The Inn, Housing the Holy: The Inn  
Rev. Chip Stapleton

## COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution

Prayer after Communion

**COMMUNION SONG** O Holy Night Adam  
(Harriet McDonald, soloist)

## OFFERING

**OFFERING SONG** The First Noel Larson

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## CANDLE LIGHTING

One: Arise, shine, dear people.  
for our Light has come!

**All: Christ is the World's true Light,  
on our paths and in our lives.**

One: Receive the light and let its warmth  
and glow be in your hearts this night.

**All: The glory of the Lord shines  
around us on this night.**

†CAROL #60

**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 delight  
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, lead thy light;  
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

†CHARGE AND BLESSING

†CAROL #40

**Joy to the World**

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.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns: Let us our songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow, Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.

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, and wonders of His love.

†POSTLUDE

Welcome, Son of Mary

arr. Uehlien

*†All who are able, please stand*



**Worship Leaders**

Rev. Chip Stapleton, Senior Minister  
Pam Langston, Dir. of Music Ministries  
Jen Jammer, Dir. of Children's Ministry  
Chris Jackson, Dir. of Youth Ministry

*Welcome to Highland, we are so glad you are with us tonight to join us in celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!*

*As we come together with family and friends - both new and old - we remember why we are drawn to this place and to a lowly manger in a far off country, long, long ago: because it is there that Hope was born. Because it was there that Joy took root in the lives of humanity, it was there - at Christmas - that love came down to earth for you, for me and for all the world. In that manger, on that night peace and love, hope and joy came as gifts not for the deserving, or the worthy, those that could afford it or knew where to look, but for all of us.*

*This night, as we sing songs, both new and familiar. As we hear the greatest story ever told, for the first or the five-hundredth time. As we give and receive the candlelight with each other, remember that we do all of this to celebrate the light of the world come down to earth, Emmanuel - God with us - bringing light in the darkness to this and every night!*

*Sharing God's Love,  
~Chip*



*Please join us for our Lessons and Carols service on Sunday,  
December 26th. 11:00am in the Sanctuary.*



*Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service  
December 24, 2021  
8:00pm*

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