

December 24, 2021 Worship

Christmas Eve

Song: *O Come O Come Emmanuel*

Welcome

Advent Wreath Candle Lighting

Songs: *O Come All Ye Faithful*

Call to Worship:

L: We waited.

C: And imagined a savior.

L: We imagined power.

C: One like the world but stronger and on our side.

L: We imagined a king on a white horse wielding a sword.

C: We got a baby born in a stable among the livestock.

L: We imagined the work done for us through the destruction of our enemies.

C: Instead, we receive a baby who will teach us our calling to follow the Christ child as we reach out to others.

L: As we follow the light of Christ, we worship now in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

A: Amen!

Special Music: Carol of the Bells by MacKenzie Nelson

Special Music: O Holy Night by Carol Wienhold

Scripture Reading: Luke 2: 1-20

Special Music: Away in a Manager by Bri Geidner

Song: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Children's Message

Message: *Power and Influence*

Special Music: Noel by Darcie Olsen

Affirmation of Faith

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living 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.

Special Music by Dominic Ferraro

Offering

Gracious God, you have given Jesus as a gift for the world. We return to you some of what you have given, so that the whole world may know God's grace, mercy, and love. Receive these gifts and use them to your glory. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Confession

L: We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

L: God of New Life,

C: Your promises have never wavered, and yet we are not always willing to believe them. We descend into our own despair, unable to see past our immediate concerns. We drag others down with us and live to complain and commiserate. We ignore the miracles right in front us. Forgive us for living such small lives, O Lord, and restore in us the wonder of what it is to be your people. We confess these sins out loud as well as the sins we confess now in silence...

L: God is faithful; God is merciful; God does not hold our sins against us! For this we give you thanks, O Lord. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority alone, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all of your sins. You are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit! Receive the assurance of your deliverance by the One who promised from of old to set us free.

A: Amen!

Communion

To you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This child will become the one to redeem the world from sin and death. As we share in this meal, we share in the gift of new life. Come to the table, all who are gathered.

Song: *Come to the Table*

Prayers and The Lord's Prayer

C: 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Song: Silent Night – Candle Lighting

Blessing

Depart now in peace, for your eyes have seen the salvation which God has prepared for all people.

Grow in strength and wisdom and bring forth a harvest of righteousness and praise as you Bring Christ's Love to Life.

And may God smile upon you and make you strong and wise;
May Christ Jesus share his inheritance with you freely;

And may the Holy Spirit open your eyes to the presence of God's Messiah.

As people who have seen the light of Christ, we live this time of worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

A: Amen!

Song: *Joy to the World*

Dismissal

L: This worship service is over. Now let the service to others begin. Let us go in peace to love and serve our Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

A few questions to consider throughout the week ...

- What is incarnation?
- Why does God come as a baby?
- Why does God in human form matter?
- How does God reverse a power play?