

Spring City-Reed Chapel United Methodist Churches

Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2021

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL/BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

REJOICE, FOR GOD IS WITH US—EMMANUEL.

IN THE DARKNESS OF OUR WORLD SHINES GOD'S HOLY LIGHT

NOW THERE IS REASON TO HOPE, TO LOVE, TO LAUGH, TO LIVE.

GOD IS TRULY WITH US. WE ARE NOT ALONE.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

*HYMN "O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL" No. 234

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Gracious God,

With joy and thanksgiving we gather as your people.

We have come to hear again the timeless story of Christ's birth.

In the excitement of this night, quiet our hearts that we may know the peace and fullness of this holy time.

Shine, O Light, in the darkness of our world.

Sing, O angels, in the stillness of our hearts, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those God favors."

This we pray in the name of the Child of Bethlehem. Amen.

SERVICE OF LIGHT

**Please stand as able*

THE PROPHECY OF THE MESSIAH

LIGHTING THE FOUR CANDLES OF ADVENT THE GRANT FAMILY

ISAIAH 9:2, 6-7; JOHN 1:1-2, 4-5

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor,
Almighty God, Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God with us, Emmanuel*

THE COMING OF JESUS IS ANNOUNCED TO MARY AND JOSEPH

LUKE 1:26-38; MATTHEW 1:18-25 LOYAL CORNELIUS

SOLO "MARY DID YOU KNOW?" ANGELA JACKSON

LIGHTING OF THE GABRIEL, MARY & JOSEPH CANDLES

THE PREPARATION FOR THE BIRTH OF JESUS

LUKE 2:1-5 WANDA McCARTER

HYMN "O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM" No. 230

JESUS IS BORN

LUKE 2:6-7 SUSAN MADDUX

HYMN "AWAY IN A MANGER" No. 246
(VERSE 1)

LIGHTING OF THE BABY JESUS CANDLE

SOLO "O HOLY NIGHT" RICHARD STAIR
ACCOMPANIED BY CONNIE ROBERTS

JESUS' BIRTH IS ANNOUNCED TO THE SHEPHERDS

LUKE 2:9-14 QUINCY McCLENDON

HYMN "IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR" No. 218
(VERSE 1)

LIGHTING OF THE ANGEL CANDLES

HYMN "THE FIRST NOEL" No. 245
(VERSE 1)

LIGHTING OF THE SHEPHERD CANDLES

THE SHEPHERDS FIND THE BABY JESUS

LUKE 2:15-18 BEN McDONALD

THE WISE MEN BRING THEIR GIFTS TO JESUS

MATTHEW 2:1-11 JUDY EZELL

HYMN "THE FIRST NOEL" No. 245
(VERSE 3, 5)

LIGHTING OF THE KING CANDLES

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION No. 15

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON

Merciful God, we confess that often we find darkness more comfortable than light.

We confess that we find your good news frightening and unsettling, especially when we consider its demands as well as its promises.

We confess that Christmas has become more to us than the birthday of Christ, partly because we do not want a Christ-Child in our lives or in our world.

Forgive us, break us, bend us, remake us.

Give us the courage to lay ourselves open to the wonder and healing of your coming.

Be born again into our world, be born again into our hearts and lives.

Hear now our silent and personal confessions as we prepare ourselves for your nativity.

The true light that enlightens all has come into the world.

That light shines on in the darkness, and the darkness has never been able to put it out.

This is the good news: God has heard our confession. God has forgiven our sin.

Thanks be to God!

PRAYER

We are filled with joy for we have heard good news of great joy.

We are filled with love for we have tasted the sign of God's great love.

We are filled with hope for the angels still sing in our world and there is a Light for us to follow.

*PASSING OF THE LIGHT "SILENT NIGHT" NO. 239

*BENEDICTION "JOY TO THE WORLD" NO. 246
(VERSE 1)

*POSTLUDE

**Please stand as able*

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December 24, 2021 | 5:00 p.m.
Rev. Dave Grant