

Celebration of Worship

Welcome

**Indicates congregation standing as able*



Welcome and Greeting

(Children are invited to join the pastor in the narthex for the opening song)

*Opening Song “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Las Posadas:

Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking;
if you hear my voice and open the door,
I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.

People outside the sanctuary say:

Who will give lodging to these pilgrims who are weary of travel
have come exhausted from Nazareth. I'm a carpenter, by the name
name of the heavens, I beg you for lodging; my beloved wife and

People Inside the sanctuary say:

Although you tell us that you are weary, we do not give lodging;
we don't care what your name is; let us alone. We are telling you to
enter.

People outside the sanctuary say:

It is not by our choice that today we travel.
But the emperor has said that all must be counted.

People inside the sanctuary say:

For your reasons we care not, every room is taken.
Can't you see the place is full? You are bad for business.

People outside the sanctuary say:

The Gospel of John says, “He was in the world, and the world did not
know him;
He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept

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Rev. W. Douglas Mills, PhD

Tifani Vincent – Director of Children, Youth and Fellowship Ministries

7:00 p.m. Worship Service

December 24, 2017

But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God.”

governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David because he was descended from the house and family of David registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver and she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

People inside the sanctuary say:
Who are the children of God?

People outside the sanctuary say:
All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

(Romans 8:14)
*Christmas Song “What child is This” #219, vv. 1-2

People inside the sanctuary say:
To what does the Spirit of God guide us?

Lighting the Christ Candle and Extinguishing the Advent Candle

People outside the sanctuary say:

(The Christ candle is lit from the flames of the Advent candle.)

Scripture teaches, “You shall love God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. You shall love your neighbor as yourself;” and “the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” (Matthew 22: 37, 39 and Galatians 5:22-23)

Now the time is near! The One who will save us, brings God’s light through Christ. Light this Christ Candle in celebration of God’s most precious gift to us. AMEN.

People inside the sanctuary say:
How do we know we love the Lord and have faith?

Message A Manger for the World

People outside the sanctuary say:

Offering

According to our teacher James, the brother of Jesus: “What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a sister or brother is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Good peace; keep warm and eat your fill,’ and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.” (James 2:14-17)

Invitation to the Offering for Missions

Offertory Special Music “Joseph’s Lullaby”

People inside the sanctuary say:
Lodging we will give you with much happiness;
Receive not only this corner of our humble home, but also of our hearts.

*Doxology
Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts.
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts. Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Special Music “Mary did you know?” Janet and Joe Vertrees

Scripture Lesson Luke 2:1-7

A SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

2 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went, because he was descended from the house and family of David, to be registered with Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, who was at that time living in the town of Nazareth in Galilee. ⁵ And so they were registered together, because he was of the house and family of David. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to give birth to a firstborn son. ⁷ She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸ Now the time is near! The One who will save us, brings God’s light through Christ. Light this Christ Candle in celebration of God’s most precious gift to us. AMEN.

*Invitation to the table

THE PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.
(the pastor continues with words declaring God's mighty acts...)

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**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.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
(the pastor continues with words remembering the action of God in Christ.)

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy C
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy |
will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our
forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass a
us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is
the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE DISTRIBUTION

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we
loaf. The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.
The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Ch

Special Music

“Ave Maria”

Prayer:

(a child will pray:)

Visit your family, O God.

Give us love, joy, and your peace.

Purify our thoughts, words, and deeds, so that when Jesus Chri
place prepared for his coming.

(a youth will pray:)

O heavenly Father, as we prepare ourselves for the coming of y
and lives with praise.

Grant that we may be just and merciful, ready to help in the ne
and conscious of your great love for all the world.

Fill the Christian family with your spiritual gifts of forgiveness
love, and unending joy.

All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Lesson

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keepi

flock by night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" 15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

***Benediction**
 Go, singing a song to the God of our salvation.
 Sing of mighty deeds and glory.
 Join the heavenly chorus and sing:
 "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
 and on earth peace."
 Sing of God's salvation from day to day.
 Jesus Christ is born today!

*Hymn "Joy to the World" #245

*Scripture Lesson John 1:1-14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

*Candlelight Carol "Silent Night" #239
(While the hymn is sung, the pastor will begin to light the congregation candles from the Christ candle. Please hold lit candles straight up; tilt unlit candles to light.)

Assisting in Worship Today:

Bob VanAllen, Liturgist
 Mountainside Choir
 Burke Family
 Caden Burke
 Jackson Mills
 Janet and Joseph Vertrees, Vocalists
 Kimberly Robinson, Vocalist
 Dee Short, Organist
 Karen Blackmore, Pianist