

Call to worship:

L: The Word became flesh and lived among us,

P: and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

L: Let us rejoice that the Light of the World shines from the manger and the cross.

P: We will worship God this Christmas Day, with joyful hearts and songs of grateful praise.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

L: Behold, I bring you good news of great joy; for to you is born in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord!

P: Jesus has arrived in grace and mystery, renewing faded hopes and announcing peace to a weary world.

L: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favours!

P: Jesus comes among us in power and glory, inspiring joy and calling us to lives that are full of God's love.

L: Jesus, the light of the world, is born.

P: Let Christ's light shine in the darkest corners of our lives. Let Christ's light shine in the darkest corners of our world. God is with us.

(The candle is lit)

L: Let us pray:

P: God of grace and glory, as we celebrate this Christmas, transform our hearts and our lives so that your Good News is not an old story but a fresh truth lived out every day through the power of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Carol "Oh come, all ye faithful" vv. 1,2,5

1. Oh come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
oh come ye, oh come ye to Bethlehem.

Come and behold him, born the King of angels:
Oh come, let us adore him; oh come, let us adore him;

oh come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

2. God of God, Light of light,
born unto Mary, the virgin blest,
very God, begotten, not created:

Oh come, let us adore him; oh come, let us adore him;

oh come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

5. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;

Jesus, to thee be glory given;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

Oh come, let us adore him; oh come, let us adore him;

oh come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Responsive Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

L: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

P: You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy;

L: they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,

as people exult when dividing plunder.

P: For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

L: For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

P: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders,

L: and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

P: Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

L: He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

P: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-6

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Carol: "Joy to the world"

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
let earth receive its King; let every heart prepare him room

and heaven and nature sing. And heaven and nature sing.

And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2. Joy to the earth! The Saviour 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:8-20 (p.58)

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Reflection: Christmas Signs

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they



From our home to
yours, may you have a
Merry Christmas and a
Blessed New Year
filled with grace, peace
and hope.

had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Offering – Offertory: It came upon a midnight clear

Celebration of Communion

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Light

Carol: "Silent 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,
heavenly hosts sing "Hallelujah,
Christ, the Saviour is born!
Christ, the Saviour 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.

Benediction

Postlude: Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas

