

Christmas Eve Service
December 23, 2011

Organ Prelude :

Organist

As we gather in the presence of God,. let us listen to the music
& quiet our souls, as we are preparing to worship.

Acolyte Service and the Ringing of the Bells

Gathering Words

Special Music: God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen Power Point

***Call to Worship:**

L: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

P: And also with you.

L: We gather to celebrate the birth of the one who is the light of the world.

P: We are here to worship God and His Son Jesus Christ, born this night in Bethlehem of Judea.

L: We light the candle of hope to remind us of the promises made by all the prophets that God would raise up a Savior for his people Israel and through Him bless all the nations.

P: Let the heavens and the earth rejoice. Our Lord has come.

-Light the first candle

L: We light the candle of peace to remind us that the Prince of Peace comes to enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

P: Let the heavens and the earth rejoice. Our Lord has come.

-Light the second candle

L: We light the candle of joy to remind us that the Lord has made known His salvation and that grace is poured out upon us.

P: Let the heavens and the earth rejoice. Our Lord has come.

-Light the third candle

L: We light the candle of love to remind us that God so loved the world that he sent his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him might have eternal life.

P: Let the heavens and the earth rejoice. Our Lord has come.

-Light the fourth candle

L: We light the Christ candle to celebrate and rejoice that the light of the world is born this night....

-Light the Christ candle

L: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness-on them a light has shined. You, O Lord, have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy. For unto us a child is born, unto

us a son is given. And the government shall be upon his shoulder. He is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

P: Glory be to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to all people of good will. Alleluia!

***Carol:** O Little Town of Bethlehem 230

Silent Prayer and Meditation

Let us Pray...Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light. May that light illuminate our hearts and shine in our words and deeds. May the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love represented by the birth in Bethlehem this night fill our lives and become part of all that we say and do. May we share the divine life of your son Jesus Christ, even as he humbled himself to share our humanity. We ask all these things as we pray the prayer He taught us all to pray: 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, forever. Amen.

***Carol:** What Child is This 219

Old Testament Reading: Malachi 2: 17-3:5

New Testament Reading: Matthew 1: 18-25

Message: We Can Learn From Joseph *Pastor Alan Meyer*

***Hymn of Response:** Away in a Manger 217

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Special Music: He Made a Way in a Manger Praise Team

***Singing of Our Doxology**

***A Christmas Prayer:** Let us pray:

L: Let us affirm the love that God has for us-a love that was not, and cannot, be hindered.

P: We thank God for coming unto us; we praise him for Christ's birth into our world.

L: It was cold and Mary and Joseph were fearful.

P: But that did not stop the birth.

L: They were poor and had no place fitting for their child.

P: But that did not stop the birth.

L: They were uncertain about what God wanted from them.

P: But that did not stop the birth.

