

Order of Worship
December 24, 2016 – 6:30 p.m.
Christmas Eve

GATHERING

Welcome

*Hymn: "O Come All Ye Faithful" # 41

Lighting of the Advent Candles**

Leader: People of God, when the angels appeared, the shepherds were terrified.

People: We will not fear, for this is the night of Good News!

Leader: We celebrate the good news of a baby, born in a stable.

People: Tonight we light many candles to mark his birth.

Lighter of the Candle of Hope: We hope in the one who has come, Jesus Christ.

Lighter of the Candle of Peace: We pray for God's peace to prevail.

Lighter of the Candle of Joy: Our joy comes in God's Son.

Lighter of the Candle of Love: God's love never ends.

Lighter of the Christ Candle: Born as one of us, Jesus became God's living Word of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

Leader: Do not be afraid! The Good News is here!

All: Glory to God in the Highest!

Hymn: "What Child Is This" # 53

HEARING THE WORD

Special Music: "Go Tell It on the Mountain" (Phillip Pershing)

Scripture Readings:

Old Testament: Isaiah 9:2-7

New Testament: Luke 2:1-20

Meditation: "Fear Not"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Hymn: "In the Bleak Midwinter" Lydia Daniel

Celebration of the Eucharist

Invitation to the Table

May 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.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

Litany of the Christ Candle: As you share the light of the Christ candle, please say: **"Fear not, the Light of the world has come!"**

*Hymn: "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 "Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior 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.
4. **Silent night, holy night!**
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

*Charge and Benediction