

Order of Worship

December 23, 2018 – 11:00 a.m.

Introit: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" # 5
(verses 1 & 3)

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: The Candle of Peace

Leader: Read with me the words from the prophet
Isaiah chapter 9, verses 6-7:

All: "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this."

Leader: We light the Candle of Hope, the Candle of Preparation, the Candle of Joy and the Candle of Peace.

*Hymn: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" # 44
(verses 1 & 2)

Greeting One Another

*Response "Gloria Patri" # 579

HEARING THE WORD

Let the Children Come

Nine Lessons and Carols

1. Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19
Hymn: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" # 2



Leader: Thorns remind us that because of Adam's sinfulness the ground was cursed, and in toil he ate of it all the days of his life.

People: The thorns also remind us of the crown of thorns which was placed on Jesus' head as he suffered and died on the cross to redeem us and all creation.

2. Genesis 22:15-18
Hymn: "Angels from the Realms of Glory" # 22
(verses 1, 2 & 3)



Leader: Sand reminds us that God promised Abraham that his offspring would be as many as the grains of sand on the seashore and that from his descendants would come the One through whom all the nations of the earth would be blessed.

People: The sand also reminds us of the desert where Jesus resisted the temptations of Satan and chose the way of servanthood and suffering for our sake.

3. Isaiah 9:2-7
Hymn: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" # 9



Leader: The yoke reminds us that Isaiah told us about the One who will come to end all kinds of oppression and slavery.

People: We also remember that Jesus said, "Come to me all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

4. Isaiah 11:1-9
Hymn: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" # 48



Leader: This branch reminds us of Isaiah's prophecy that a shoot shall come from the stump of Jesse and bring peace to all people.

People: The branch also reminds us of the wood of the cross. Through Christ, God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, making peace through the blood of the cross.

5. Luke 1:26-38
Hymn: "Angels We Have Heard on High" # 23
(verses 1 & 3)



Leader: This angel reminds us that Gabriel told Mary not to be afraid for God was at work in her life to give birth to a son who would save his people from their sin.

People: We also remember the angel at the empty tomb who told the women: "Do not be afraid. Jesus, who was crucified, is not here; for he has risen."

6. Luke 2:1-7
Hymn: "Once in David's Royal City" # 49
(verses 1, 2 & 4)



Leader: White cloth reminds us that the baby Jesus was wrapped in bands of cloth and laid in a manger.

People: The cloth also reminds us that after Jesus' death, his friends took his body and wrapped it in linen cloths and laid it in the tomb.

7. Luke 2:8-16

Hymn: "Away in a Manger"

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Leader: The lamb reminds us that the baby Jesus made his bed among the animals of the stable and that his birth was first announced to shepherds.

People: The lamb also reminds us that Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Offering and Offertory

Doxology

592

8. Matthew 2:1-11

Hymn: "We Three Kings of Orient Are"
(verses 1-5)

66



Leader: Gold and spices to remind us of the wise men who journeyed by night to present Jesus, the King of Creation, with their gifts.

People: We also remember how Nicodemus, who came to Jesus by night, brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes to prepare his body for burial after his death on the cross.

9. John 1:1-14



Leader: The candle represents the true light, which has come into the world in Jesus Christ and brings new light to everyone.

People: He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

Leader: In Jesus is life, and that life gives new hope and meaning to all people.

People: The light of God shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.

Affirmation of Faith:

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

309

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

*Hymn: "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

29

*Charge and Benediction

*Benediction Response:

"Go Tell It on the Mountain" (refrain)

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