

*Christmas Eve
December 24, 2024*

Prelude Laurie Knapp
(As the Prelude begins, prayerfully prepare your hearts and minds for worship.)

Greetings, Announcements & Prayer

Lighting of the Christ Candle

*Call to Worship

To us, watchful and waiting, a gift has arrived,

A tiny child, born in a manger,

A gift of peace to troubled souls and dangerous streets,

A gift of joy to sad hearts and cautious lives,

A gift of hope for the weary and freedom for the oppressed.

A tiny baby, a gift from God.

So raise your voices in praise and thanksgiving!

Shout and sing! Let the church bells ring!

Rejoice! Rejoice! Our Savior is born!

*Hymn *“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”* 251

*Opening Prayer

Loving God, as we enter this Christmas season, help us open the empty places in our hearts and lives to the merciful light of Christ. Show us the renewing power of your grace and mercy. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you so that we may walk in the light of Christ, and have the ever-brightening hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*Psalter Psalm 96 815-816

*Christmas Prayer 231

*Canticle of God’s Glory 83

Children’s Message *The Babe in the Manger* Rev. Darlene L. Kelley

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Christmas Eve Gift of Music *“O Holy Night”* Laurie Knapp

*Gospel Reading Luke 2:1-20 Page 58 (N.T.)
Christmas Eve Homily Incarnation Rev. Darlene L. Kelley

*Hymn *“In the Bleak Midwinter”* (vs. 1-3) 221

Presentation of Our Tithes & Offerings

Offertory Laurie Knapp

*Doxology 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus Christ,

You are the way of peace. Come into the brokenness of our lives and our land with your healing love. Help us to be willing to bow before you in true repentance, and to bow to one another in real forgiveness. By the fire of your Holy Spirit, melt our hard hearts and consume the pride and prejudice which separate us. Fill us, O Lord, with your perfect love, which casts out our fear, and bind us together in that unity which you share with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Silent Prayer and Words of Assurance

Celebration of Holy Communion for Christmas Eve

(Come down the center aisle to receive the meal and return via the side aisle picking up a candle as you return to your seat.)

Lighting of the Christmas Candles

*Closing Hymn *“Silent Night, Holy Night”* (vs. 1-3) On Back

(During the singing of the hymn the ushers will light his/her candle from the Christ Candle and light the candle of the person at the end of each pew who will then pass the light down the pew. The person who is lighting their candle should tip their candle to the light to receive the light while the lit candle remains upright.)

Benediction

Benediction Response

*The Congregation May Stand

Silent Night

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.

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!

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.

Silent Night

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.

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!

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.

Open the Door of Love

Loving Father,
Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
That we may share in the song of the angels,
The gladness of the shepherds,
And worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate
And open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift
And good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing,
which Christ brings
And teach us to be merry with clear hearts.



May Christmas morning make us
Happy to be thy children
And Christmas evening bring us
To our beds with grateful thoughts
Forgiving and forgiven
For Jesus sake
Amen.

— *Robert Louis Stevenson*



Celebration of Holy Communion for Christmas Eve

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.
You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we
turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.
You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and
spoke to us through your prophets.

In the fullness of time
you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior, and at his birth the angels
sang
glory to you in the highest and peace to your people on earth.

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.
As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem and there found no room,
so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem and was despised and rejected.

As in the poverty of a stable Jesus was born,
so by the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your
Church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water
and the Spirit.

As your Word became flesh, born of woman, on that night long ago, so on the
night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body
which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the
forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in
final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all
honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

Amen.

"The Great Thanksgiving for Christmas Eve, Day or Season," Copyright © 1972 The
Methodist Publishing House; Copyright © 1980, 1981, 1985 UMPH; Copyright © 1986 by
Abingdon Press; Copyright © 1987, 1989, 1992 UMPH. Used by permission."