

Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 2017
5:00 p.m.

PRELUDE

TOWER BELL

LISTENING

OPENING WORDS

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE *Dr. Steve Fitzgerald*

Pastor: We have watched; we have waited in hope, for peace, in joy, with love. Now our redemption draws near!

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor: With the prophet Isaiah, we proclaim the promise of God:

People: 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. 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.

***INVOCATION**

***HYMN 249** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* *ADESTE FIDELES*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Love Incarnate, we confess that, with the shepherds, we are terrified of your glory; for in glory's light we see plainly all that is wrong in the world: how oppression still enslaves; how garments of war are still stained with blood; how those seeking refuge still find no place of safety. We also see what is wrong in us: how passionately we pursue the things of this world, but forget to ponder the mystery of faith; how we do not practice the peace you intend in our relationships, our community, or even in the church. Forgive us, we pray, and help us not to be afraid. Like the shepherds, we want to follow and find you. In the Savior's name we pray. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

LEARNING

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL READING *Luke 2:4-7, 15-16* *N.T. p. 58*

HOMILY *"Bread of Heaven"* *Dr. Steve Fitzgerald*

LINKING

***HYMN 250** *O Little Town of Bethlehem* *ST. LOUIS*

***THE WESTMINSTER CONFESSION OF FAITH (in unison)**

From Chapter VIII, section 6.044 – 2)

The Son of God, the second Person in the Trinity, being very and eternal God, of one substance, and equal with the Father, did, when the fullness of time was come, take upon him man's nature, with all the essential properties and common infirmities thereof; yet without sin: being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the Virgin Mary, of her substance. So that two whole, perfect, and distinct natures, the Godhead and the manhood, were inseparably joined together in one person, without conversion, composition, or confusion. Which person is very God and very man, yet one Christ, the only Mediator between God and man. Amen.

***THE GLORIA PATRI** *GREATOREX*

THE EVENING PRAYER WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Dr. Fitzgerald will light his candle from the Christ Candle of the Advent Wreath and light the candles of the ushers, who will in turn light the candles of worshippers in each pew nearest to the center aisle. Tip only the unlit candle when lighting the candle from your neighbor to avoid candles dripping onto the floor.

***HYMN 253** *Silent Night! Holy Night!* *STILLE NACHT*

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***POSTLUDE**

***Those who are able may stand.**