

The Illuminating Face of God

A Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols, December 24, 2023

Gathering

Musical Prelude

Welcome and Prayer

O Come, All Ye Faithful VT 241

Lesson 1: The Advent of the Word

Art: Sololos, "Dark Starry Sky"

John 1:1-5 Eli Schloneger

O Come, O Come, Immanuel VT 210

Lesson 2: The Annunciation

Art: Mike Moyers, "The Annunciation"

Luke 1:26-38 Kay Kempf

The Angel Gabriel Called Mary Blessed VT 221

Lesson 3: Joseph's Dream

Art: Rembrandt, The Dream of Joseph

Matthew 1:18-25 Daniel Grimes

O Little Town of Bethlehem VT 245

Lesson 4: Mary's Song of Praise

Art: Painting in the church of El Sitio,
Suchitoto, El Salvador

Luke 1:39-56 Isabela Barahona, Steph Wieand

Love Has Come VT 258

Lesson 5: The Birth of Jesus

Art: Palestinian Artist Rawan Anani

Luke 2:1-7 Emily Krabill

Lighting of Christ Candle

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear VT 248

Dedication of Giving Project Mark Schloneger

Music by Mim Norris

Lesson 6: An Oracle of Isaiah

Art: Nativity from Ethiopia

Isaiah 9:2-7 Sherm Kauffman

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming VT 216

Lesson 7: The Shepherds and the Angels

Art: Daniel Bonnell, "Seeing Shepherds"

"The Shepherd's Wish List," Evie Nafziger
by Sarah Klassen

Leader:

And there were in the same country
shepherds abiding in the field, keeping
watch over their flock by night. Lo, an
angel of Almighty God came to them, and
God's glory shone 'round about them: and
they were sore afraid. The angel said to
them, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you
good tidings of great joy, which shall be to

all people. For to you is born this day in David's city a savior — the Messiah. Let this be a sign to you: you shall find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

People:

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace, peace to those on whom God's favor rests!" (Luke 2:8-14)

Angels We Have Heard on High VT 249

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing VT 247

Art: Jesus Mafa, "The Birth of Jesus with Shepherds"

Leader:

After the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said one to another,

People:

"Let us now go into Bethlehem, and see for ourselves this thing which has come to pass, and God has made known to us."

Leader:

They left their camp in haste, and found Mary and Joseph tending the babe as he lay in a manger. As they took in the sight, the shepherds made known what the angel had told them concerning the child. All who heard their report were astonished by the shepherds' words.

People:

As the shepherds took their leave, glorifying and praising God for all that they had witnessed, Mary treasured these things, and pondered them in her heart. (Luke 2:15-20)

Love Came Down at Christmas

VT 255

Sending and Candle Lighting

Silent Night, Holy Night (VT 244)

projected

Benediction

You may place your candle in the ceramic bowls as you exit.

Monetary offerings may be placed in the basket by the sanctuary entrance.

Childcare:

Childcare for infants & toddlers through 3 years of age is available in the Cherub Corner (Room 2). Child Caregivers Today: Ruth Roth and Anna Sawatsky

Participants:

Worship leader: Billy Funk

Song Leader: Andrea Bontrager Yoder

Accompanist: Patsy Sherer

AV: Michael Sherer

Ushers: Nancy and Dick Yoder

Visuals: Rebecca Tarman, Trish & Risa Bohn, and Anja Martin