



Welcome
WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE

Order of Worship

Christmas Eve Service

Welcome

(Please stand, as you are able)

Call to Worship

P: I have Good news for you. A great joy will come to all the people: Today in the city of David a Savior has been born for you - He is Christ the Lord.

C: Come, Let us worship Him.

Opening Hymn: 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Text: Public domain

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|---|---|-----|--|
| 1 | O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. Refrain | ref | Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel! |
| 2 | O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. Refrain | 3 | O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law
In cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain |
| 4 | O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Refrain | 5 | O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. Refrain |
| 6 | O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Refrain | 7 | O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace.
Refrain |

P: We begin in the name of God the Father,

C: **Who gave us His Son for our salvation.**

P: And in the name of God the Son,

C: **Whose birth we celebrate this holy evening.**

P: And in the name of God the Holy Spirit,

C: **Who causes the Light of Christ to shine in our hearts. Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

P: Lord, God, we come before you to confess our sins; as we see the wise men kneeling;

C: **We remember the times we have not knelt before you in adoration.**

P: As we see the angel choir;

C: **We remember the times we have not sung your praises.**

P: As we see the shepherds leaving the manger;

C: **We remember the times we have not told others about your good news.**

A: **For these and all other sins we come to you for forgiveness.**

P: To us a Child is born, to us a Savior is given. He is Christ the Lord and He has forgiven all our sins. I announce His forgiveness to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

Angels We Have Heard on High

Glory to the Father be,

Glory, Virgin born, to Thee,

Glory to the Holy Ghost,

Praised by men and heav'nly host:

Glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o!

Glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o!

P: Glory to God in the Highest

C: **and peace on earth.** (Lk 2:14)

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: To us a child is born, to us a son is given

C: **and the government will be on his shoulders**

P: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

C: **Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace,**

P: Sing to the Lord a new song.

C: **for he has done marvelous things.** *(Please be seated)*

PRAYER

P: O God, because you once caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, grant that we who have known the mystery of that Light here on earth may come to the full measure of its joys in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD

GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD JOHN 3:16

All: For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have ever lasting life.

THE WORD BECAME FLESH JOHN 1:1-14

361 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Text: Public domain

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight. | 2 For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king
And peace to all the earth! |
| 3 How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming; But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still The dear Christ enters in. | |

THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO MARY LUKE 1:26-38

370 What Child Is This

Text: Public domain

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|--|--|
| 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems
sweet While shepherds watch are
keeping? This, this is Christ the king,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary! | 2 Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary! |
|--|--|

- 3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary!

THE LORD APPEARS TO JOSEPH IN A DREAM MATTHEW 1:18-25

364 Away in a Manger Text: Public domain

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His
sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked
down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the
hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing, the baby
awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He
makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down
from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is
nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD LUKE 1:1-4; 2:1-7

358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

- 1 "From heav'n above to earth I come
To bear good news to ev'ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing:
- 2 "To you this night is born a child
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child of lowly birth
Shall be the joy of all the earth.
- 3 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart
For You to dwell within my heart.

Text: Public domain

THE SHEPHERDS LUKE 2:8-20

397 As with Gladness Men of Old Text: Public domain

- 1 As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led by Thee.
- 2 As with joyful steps they sped,
Savior, to Thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before
Thee, whom heav'n and earth
adore;
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.
- 3 As they offered gifts most rare
At Thy cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.

THE WISEMEN MATTHEW 2:1-12

387 Joy to the World Text: Public domain

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature
sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills,
and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and
grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

THANKSGIVING

P: We praise you O God, because you sent Jesus Christ, your only begotten Son, to be born for us of the Virgin Mary, that we might be delivered from sin, and receive power to become your children. Amen.

PRAYERS

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs; Oh, Prince of Peace, we pray

C: **for all who are in need of your peace in their lives.**

P: Oh, Prince of Peace we pray

C: **for the increase of peace among the nations.**

P: Oh, Prince of Peace, we pray

C: **for the spread of the joyful news that you our Savior has come.**

P: Oh, Prince of Peace, we pray

C: **for the renewal of the whole church**

P: Oh, Prince of Peace, we pray

C: **for the light of Christmas to shine on us all,**

P: Rejoicing in your birth and trusting in your mercy, O Christ, Light of the world, we commend all for whom we pray.

C: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

All: Our Father, who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Glory to God in the Highest

C: **and peace on earth.** (Lk 2:14)

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Crown Him King of Kings"

1 Crown Him King of Kings
Crown Him Lord of Lords
Wonderful Counselor
The Mighty God.
Emmanuel: God is with us
And He shall reign
He shall reign
He shall reign forevermore

2 Crown Him King of earth
Crown Him Lord of Heav'n
Son of God; Son of Man
Master of all
Sweet Lamb of God
Yet Good Shepherd of His Sheep
And He shall reign
He shall reign
He shall reign forevermore
Instrumental Interlude

3 Crown Him Prince of Peace
Crown Him Lord of life
Died for us; rose for us
Now lives on high
Speaks through His Word
Let us fall before His throne
And He shall reign
He shall reign
He shall reign forevermore

Final Tag

And He shall reign
He shall reign
He shall reign forevermore

Presentation: "O Holy Night" Phil and Victoria Luster-Bartz

393 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Text: Public domain

1 Infant holy,
 Infant lowly,
For His bed a cattle stall;
 Oxen lowing,
 Little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
 Swiftly winging,
 Angels singing,
 Bells are ringing,
 Tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!

2 Flocks were sleeping,
 Shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new
 Saw the glory,
 Heard the story,
Tidings of a Gospel true.
 Thus rejoicing,
 Free from sorrow,
 Praises voicing,
 Greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!

P: May the Light of Christ illuminate your hearts. May He bring His Light into the darkness of the world through your words and your deeds.

BLESSING 2 Cor 13:14

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God the Father, and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

G: Amen, Amen, Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

MEDITATION ON THE BIRTH OF CHRIST.

(We remain in silence until the candles are lit. The Light starts from the Christ candle and spreads out into the world.)

Closing Hymn 363 Silent Night, Holy Night

Text: Public domain

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|---|---|---|--|
| 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,
Heav'nly 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. | | |

SILENT PRAYER

RECESSIONAL

A Blessed and Merry Christmas to everyone!