

Christmas Eve Service 2020

WE GATHER

Welcome and Announcements

Call to worship

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Prayer of Adoration and confession (The Lord's Prayer)

Words of Assurance

Poem – Christmas' True Meaning

WE LISTEN

First reading – Isaiah 9:2-7

Second reading Luke 2:1-15

Meditation

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND

Prayer of the people

Miss Rita singing

GOD'S PEOPLE ARE SENT

Poem – On This Christmas Morn

Hymn – 153 Joy to the world (1 & 4)

Blessing

Hymn – 154 Silent Night (1, 2, & 3)

Welcome and Announcements

1. Welcome. Merry Christmas! Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours! This is very different Christmas Eve service. Yet, let us come to the presence of our faithful Father God.
2. The Poinsettias are in memory of loved ones who were either members of our church or friends of our church family.
In loving memory of Robert Knowles, from the church family.
In loving memory of Paul Rundstler, from the church family.
In loving memory of Kate Revington, from the church family.
In loving memory of William "Bill" Summers, from the church family.
In loving memory of Velma Hayashi, mother of Robert Hayashi.
In loving memory of Bea Bikker, from the church family.
And In loving memory of Marion Monkman, from the church family.

Let us take short moment of silence to remember them.

Responsive Call to worship

One: In the beginning was the Word.

All: And the Word was with God and the Word was God.

One: In him was light.

All: And the light was the life of all people.

One: The light shines in the darkness.

All: And the darkness has not overcome it.

Hymn – 159 O come all ye faithful (1, 2, & 4)

Prayer of Adoration and confession

Holy and loving God, you stir in our hearts and bring joy to our lives; you stir in our minds and bring wisdom to our thoughts; you stir in the world and bring hope to our future. You came as a little child, stirring up our praises, so now we come to adore you with the angels; to bow with the shepherds; to kneel in wonder with the magi; to ponder your mystery with Joseph; to love and cherish you with Mary; We come to you with humble hearts full of joy because you came to us first.

Compassionate God, trusting in your love for us, we bring our prayers of confession.
(Let us pray in unison)

God of grace and truth, you give the gift of yourself, but we are often caught up in giving and receiving our own gifts. You offer us new life in the baby born in Bethlehem, but we cloak that birth in sentiment and ignore the cost of new life. You shine in the world, but we dwell on the darkness around us. You came to us in flesh and blood, but we often fail to see you in the human lives beside us. Forgive what we have been, shape who we are, and direct who we shall be, through Christ our Saviour. Amen.

**This time, we come to you in prayer that you taught us how to pray: (The Lord's Prayer)
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light! Walk in the assurance of God's grace and forgiveness. Be people of light and forgive one another.

Poem – Christmas' True Meaning (Adele)

Christmas' True Meaning By Deborah Ann Belka	May His beauty and grandeur, cause your heart to sing may the gift of His excellence become your eternal spring.	May the wonder of His grace, reveal its magnificence in you may the gratefulness you feel be in all you say and do.
Let Christmas' true meaning, rise up in you today... may you see the real splendor of Jesus' birth on this day.	May His majesty you behold, with all dignity and honour may the fullness of His truth glorify His heavenly Father.	Let Christmas' true meaning, bring your Saviour near today may you see the need for Him today, and every day.

WE LISTEN

First reading – Isaiah 9:2-7 – Jerusha

2 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. 3 You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. 4 For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. 5 For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 6 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. 7 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.

Second reading Luke 2:1-15 – Marion & Bruno

2 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 All went to their own towns to be registered. 4 Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. 8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” 15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”

Meditation

Star of my life, Jesus Christ born in innocence.
Tempted like me to fear, covet, complain,
To criticism, cynicism, apathy, doubt. Yet remaining perfect.
He suffered my sentence and died, then rose to shining, glorious, infinite life.
Now he's welcoming me, even guilty me, to life.
To his perfect and wonderful, holy, heavenly home.
Jesus Saviour Foundation.
“In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.” John 1:4 (Nancy Unks)

On this Christmas, spare some time for Jesus. And let us have deeper relationship with him.
Jesus came to us to be with us.

Although there is province-wide lockdown, God's presence is wide and stronger than what we are experiencing now.

God came to us in the most humble form of a baby. Creator God into a tiny baby.

Let us give all our praise and worship our faithful God.

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND

Let us pray. **Prayer of the people**

God, your love is so big. So you had to send your one and only Son Jesus Christ to us. He came for us and he lived on the earth for us, to save us, to give us life, and to be with us. You restored our brokenness and you made the bridge between justice and grace. Although we cannot be justified, we are just and pure and clean because of your love and your sacrifice on the cross washing all our sin. Thank you and we praise you.

This year especially we lost too many from our church family. With your love and peace, fill each heart with your love and peace. Shine your light unto the lives of the people we lost this year. Give us wisdom and courage, so we can love and support each other.

Because you loved us first, we are here. Let us learn from you and let us be like you. Help us reach out to our surroundings and to our communities.

Baby Jesus, thank you for coming for us. And we welcome you.

In Jesus' precious and beautiful name, we pray. Amen.

Hymn – Ms. Rita

GOD'S PEOPLE ARE SENT

Poem – On This Christmas Morn By Deborah Ann Belka

A promise to the world, a child to be given so many years foretold so all could be forgiven.	Wise Men carry gifts, meant for only a King angels up in heaven Glory ~ Glory ~ sing.	Our mighty God concedes, to the wickedness of man the Prince of Peace comes to bridge the empty span.	Our everlasting Father, knows our fallen state so He sent His only Son to save us from our fate.
Moonless night shining, with the Morning Star calling watchful shepherds to come from afar.	God became a man, the Good News is born begotten Son arrives on this Christmas morn.	Wonderful is His name, Counselor to the meek the Son was born of flesh to give power to the weak.	A promise to the world, our Lord and Savior is born sing ~ Praises to His Glory ~ on this Christmas morn.

Hymn – 153 Joy to the world (1 & 4)

Blessing (By St. Augustine of Hippo)

One: Let the just rejoice

All: for the Justifier is born

One: let the sick and infirm rejoice,

All: For their Saviour is born |.

One: Let the captives rejoice

All: For their Redeemer is born.

One: Let slaves rejoice,

All: For their Master is born.

One: Let free men rejoice,

All: For their Liberator is born.

One: Let All Christians rejoice,

All: Jesus Christ is born.

Hymn – 154 Silent Night (1, 2, & 3)