

JOY OF THE REDEEMED

SCRIPTURE SONG The Desert Shall Rejoice Isaiah 35:1-8a

Antiphon: The desert shall rejoice and blossom as a rose:
(To be sung between each verse)

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF JOY

LIGHT FOR OUR WILDERNESS

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 40:3-8

MEDITATION

SONG Comfort, Comfort Ye My People Hymn 87, v1

"Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!" So says our God.
"Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load.
To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over."

OFFERING

OFFERTORY Still, Still, Still Paul Manz

THE LIGHT HAS COME

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF LOVE

SONG On Christmas Night All Christians Sing Hymn 112

On Christmas night all the Christians sing, to hear the news the angels
bring; on Christmas night a; Christians sing, to hear the news the angels
bring, news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.

HOPE YET TO COME

SCRIPTURE Revelation 22:1-5

SONG HE CAME DOWN Hymn 137

*He came down that we may have hope.
He came down that we may have hope.
He came down that we may have hope.
Hallelujah forevermore.
(v.2-...peace, v.3-...joy, v.4-...love)*



Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2015

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

*Christ Came Down
Not to the stable only
Christ came down,
but to all things lonely
in Bethlehem town—
blind and lame and weary,
all whose lives were dreary—
not to the stable only
Christ came down.
To the humble maiden
Christ came down;
to the heavy laden
Christ came down;
hearts chafed sore with sadness
learned to sing with gladness—
not to the stable only
Christ came down.
To us also, lowly,
Christ came down—
to our lives unholy
Christ came down—
to our sorrow bending,
to our pain descending—
not to Bethlehem only
Christ came down.
-William R. Mitchell*

PRELUDE Es Ist Ein Ros (Lo, How a Rose is Blooming) Johannes Brahms

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

GOD GREETS US AND WE GREET EACH OTHER

SONG

O Come, All Ye Faithful Hymn 133

O Come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem! Come, and behold him, born the King of Angels! O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him; O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN THE WILDERNESS

SCRIPTURE

EXODUS 3:1-12

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE

SONG

O Come, O Come Emmanuel Hymm 88,v.1

O come, o come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in the lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

PRAYER OF LONGING

Lord, remember us. Have regard for your covenant.
We need your redemption.

Where hands have brought about destruction, desolation, and desecration, where words have condemned, betrayed, and deceived, where silence has concealed, isolated, and ignored—
O come, Immanuel.

Shine light in the dark places, speak peace in the lands haunted by violence, and ransom your people.
As we remember your steadfast love and faithfulness, we wait expectantly; we rejoice in your coming. Amen.

GOD TEACHES US IN THE WILDERNESS

SCRIPTURE

Numbers 14:1-4, 26-29

SONG

Christ Is Coming Hymm 360

*Christ is coming! Let creation from its groans and labor cease;
Let the glorious proclamation hope restore and faith increase:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming! Come, O blessed Prince of peace.*

GOD'S LOVE ENDURES FOREVER

SCRIPTURE

PSALM 136: 1-9, 16-17, 23-26 (READ RESPONSIVELY)

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
His love endures forever.
Give thanks to the God of gods.
His love endures forever.
Give thanks to the Lord of lords:
His love endures forever.
to him who alone does great wonders,
His love endures forever.
who by his understanding made the heavens,
His love endures forever.
who spread out the earth upon the waters,
His love endures forever.
who made the great lights—
His love endures forever.
the sun to govern the day,
His love endures forever.
the moon and stars to govern the night;
His love endures forever.
to him who led his people through the wilderness;
His love endures forever.
to him who struck down great kings,
His love endures forever.
He remembered us in our low estate
His love endures forever.
and freed us from our enemies.
His love endures forever.
He gives food to every creature.
His love endures forever.
Give thanks to the God of heaven.
His love endures forever.

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE

SOLO
Traditional

Coventry Carol
Vince Leseney

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus
and rejoice in His coming to us,
we light the Christ candle.

**Jesus Christ is our hope.
He is our peace.**

Jesus Christ is our joy.
He is love -
pure, holy, undying love.

**Whoever believes in Him will never perish
but have eternal life.
Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!**

(John 3:16)
(2 Corinthians 9:15)

SONG

Silent Night

Hymm 122

(As we sing, the light from the candles is passed to those sitting on the aisles. Please pass the light by dipping the unlit candle into the lighted one. Please extinguish your candles as you leave the sanctuary.)

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! Shepherd quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly 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.
4. Silent Night, Holy Night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

Tonight's Readers are Tracy Evans, James Lovett, Michael Yeager, Vince Leseney,
Chelsea Thiessen, and Kirk Forthman.

