

**Christmas Eve
Family Service
December 24, 2010 6:30PM**

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***Our Mission is to change people's lives through a
relationship with Jesus Christ.***

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~WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE~

Greeting of Peace

Lighting of the Altar Candle

Opening Song

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

#234

Call to Worship

P: *Our lives are stilled in trembling hope. Within a womb of faithfulness, in ordinary human life, holiness may be conceived and brought to birth in labor and sighing. Be still and hear the promises of God, echoing in the melodies of distant singing.*

(Moment of silence as the Advent candles are lit.)

L: Pause and look, for we may be found among the welcoming the ones who greet in joy the small but true arrival of the Divine in the midst of human life. Be still and hear the promises of God, echoing in the melodies of distant singing.

(Moment of silence as the Christ candle is lit.)

All: *Hallelujah! Christ has come! The world is alight with promise! Divine life is in our midst forever and forever! Thanks be to God. Amen!*

Hymn

"The First Noel"

#245

Prayer of Confession

O God, we pray that you will create among our lives a sacred space for the Christ child. Even as we ask for this, our lives kneel before you in regret, as we know the hurt we sometimes cause. We have not always acted in loving and just ways. Sometimes we have closed the door to kindness or turned away people who are different. Sometimes

we have been so busy with our own agendas that we have failed to look for your life lying among us, the life which invites us to stop and see a different dream for the world. Then there are moments when we deny ourselves the gifts of vulnerable hope, bowing to the cynicisms of our day and refusing to lift our hearts to receive your promises. Create a space of forgiveness here, we pray.

(Silence)

Words of Assurance

Mercy is unfolding before our eyes. There is no time nor place where the life of Christ will not create a space for forgiveness. Let us open the doors of our souls to receive the wonder of this gift: the holiness of renewed and abundant life. We are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High"

#238

A Time for the Child in All of Us

Ingrid Murphy

A Christmas Offering

"Away in a Manger"

#217

Doxology

#95

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~WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD~

Reading of the Word

Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 9: 2-7

Gospel

Matthew 1: 18-25

Hymn

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

#230

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~WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE~

Christmas Affirmation of Faith

Insert

Prayers of the People

Candle Lighting

Hymn

"Silent Night"

See back of bulletin

Silent Night

**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.**

**Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!**

**Silent night, holy night, Son of God, loves 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 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!
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

Greeters:

Karen Colonair and Family

Ushers:

Karen Albright and Ed Simoncini

Christmas Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith together:

We will lift our eyes to the heavens
and see the light of stars above us.
We believe in God the Creator,
the one who brings us eternal signs of hope.

We will look down into the realities of earth
and discover the beauty of Divine love
reflected in vulnerability around our feet.
We believe in Jesus Christ
who is born within cherishing womb spaces
among humble and faithful people.

We will wait for the dawning of another day
and the coming of a peace which longs to emerge
in every place and generation.
We believe in the Spirit of God
whose promises break through every barrier
and surprise us with joy.

All creation will bring its praises tonight.
The hour of Christmas is upon us
and the space for the arrival of the Child of God
is prepared in our midst in faith.
This we believe.
From this we will live.