

# **Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols**

Dec. 24, 2024

**Prelude:** *What Child is This?* – Jason W. Krug

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

A child has been born for us.

**A great light shines in the middle of our darkness.**

A child has been born for us,

**establishing God's justice and breaking every yoke.**

A child has been born for us,

**whose reign will have no end.**

A child has been born for us, and we worship him together:

**Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Hallelujah!**

**Prayer of the Day**

**Jesus Christ, born in our midst, we seek your good news as one people. In your life and by your birth we receive your grace appearing, we experience your salvation nearing, and we feel your great light dawning. Draw us deeper into this mystery in the stillness and silence of this Christmas Eve. Amen.**

**CAROL:** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* #133 vs 1 & 3

## Call to Confession

God came into a broken world.

**We know all too well the ways it is still broken and hurting.**

Let us confess the ways we have done harm, that we may be part of the healing.

**Let us open our hearts to receive what God seeks to give.**

## Prayer of Confession

**Emmanuel, you have given us a gift that we can never deserve. You do not ask us to be worthy. You do not ask us to earn your love. Yet the ways we have fallen short threaten to overtake us. But we know we can come to you, even on this holiest of nights, to seek the forgiveness you offer so freely, grateful for your mercy.**

## Declaration of Forgiveness

The grace of God has appeared,

**bringing salvation to us all!**

With Christ's birth comes forgiveness and redemption.

**Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

**Glory to God #583:**    *Glory to God*                    (stand)

## **The Christmas Story as found in Luke**

**Reading 1: Luke 2:1 – 7**

**CAROL:** *O Little Town of Bethlehem* #121 vs 1 & 2

**Reading 2: Luke 2:8 – 11**

**CAROL:** *The First Nowell* #147 vs 1 & 2

**Reading 3: Luke 2:12 – 14**

**CAROL:** *Angels We Have Heard on High* #113 vs 1 & 3

**Reading 4: Luke 2:15**

**CAROL:** *What Child is This* #145 vs 1 & 2

**Reading 5: Luke 2:16 - 18**

**CAROL:** *Away in the Manger* #114 vs 1, 2, 3

**Homily**      *Love Came Down*      Jonathan Kimball

**Solo:**      *The Holy Infant's Lullaby*      Norman Dello Joio  
Jeff Sandquist

## **Prayers of the People**

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth and all people.

*(brief silence)*

Angels sing with praise, and shepherds run with haste. As we glorify and praise you in this place, send us out into the world proclaiming the salvation you have revealed this night.

God of grace.      **Receive our prayer.**

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We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord who taught us to pray:

**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; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

### **Sharing the Light of Christ**

**CAROL:** *Silent Night* #122

**READING 6:** (remain standing)

**SENDING CAROL:** *Joy to the World* #134

### **Benediction**

Glory to God in the highest!

**And peace to God's people on earth!**

Share the gift of Jesus.

Go in Peace. Live in Love. **Serve the Lord.**

**Postlude:** *He Is Born* – Jason W. Krug

*Scriptures are read from the NRSVue translation. Music presented by Lorie Francis and Jeff Sandquist. Worship led and homily provided by Jonathan Kimball, with readings by Vicki Evans, Jesse Kimball, Ken Kwantes, and Nora Sandquist. Portions of the service reprinted by permission of Presbyterian Press from Call to Worship®. Copyright 2024, and Sundays and Seasons 2024, Augsburg Fortress Press, Copyright 2024.*