

A festive Christmas scene featuring lit candles and red ornaments. The background is a warm, blurred red with several lit candles. In the foreground, there are red Christmas ornaments and white snowflake decorations.

*The true  
light*

*that gives light  
to everyone  
was coming into  
the world.*

JOHN 1:9 (NIV)

## Candlelight Service

December 24, 2018

Christmas Eve

7:00 PM

### PRELUDE

*Noël Grand Jeu et Duo*

d'Aquin (1694-1772)

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **Lighting of the Christmas Candle** (*adapted from Ps.25, 80, 96, Lk.1 & Is.12*)

Leader: We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

**People: In Christ, there is light for all people.**

Leader: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

**People: Lead me in your truth and teach me.**

Leader: Blessed be the Lord God, for he has looked favorably upon his people.

**People: He has raised up a mighty savior from the house of David.**

Leader: O Shepherd of Israel, stir up your might!

**People: Let your face shine.**

Leader: O sing to the LORD a new song; tell of his salvation from day to day.

For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised.

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;

for the LORD is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness, and the people with truth.

**People: Shout aloud and sing for joy, O Zion,**

**for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!**

### OPENING PRAYER

#### \*HYMN 134

*Joy to the World*

Antioch

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Matthew 1:18-25 p.783

#### SACRED SONG

*Mary, Did You Know*  
Kathy Brown, soprano

Lowry/Greene/Schrader

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 2: 1-7 p.832

#### \*HYMN 123

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*  
(Stanzas 1, 2 and 5)

Carol

THIRD SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 2: 8-14 p.833

### ANTHEM

*Nativity Carol*

Rutter (b. 1945)

Born in a stable so bare Born so long ago Born 'neath light of star He who loved us so  
Far away, silent he lay Born today, your homage pay For Christ is born for aye Born on Christmas Day

Cradled by mother so fair Tender her lullaby Over her son so dear Angel hosts fill the sky  
Far away, silent he lay Born today, your homage pay For Christ is born for aye Born on Christmas Day

Love in that stable was born Into our hearts to flow Innocent dreaming babe Make me thy love to know  
Far away, silent he lay Born today, your homage pay For Christ is born for aye Born on Christmas Day

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FOURTH SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 9:2-7 p.555

### HOMILY

*It's Only Natural*

Rev. Chapman

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *A Brief Statement of Faith*, 1983

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. Amen.

#### \*HYMN 121

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

St. Loius

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

### CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

#### INTERLUDE

*O Holy Night*  
Celia Daggy, viola

Adam (1803-1856)

Leader: The People who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, upon them light has shined.

**People: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!**

#### \*HYMN 122

*Silent Night*

Stille Nacht

### \*BENEDICTION

#### \*POSTLUDE

*Noël Suisse*

d'Aquin (1694-1772)

*\*Please stand if able*