

### For Prayer & Contemplation

But now is the hour  
When I remember  
An infant's power  
On a cold December.  
Midnight is dawning  
And the Birth of Wonder.  
—*Madeleine L'Engle*

### Welcome & Sharing Information

**Prelude** “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come: Variation 3” - Pelz

### Lighting the Advent Wreath (*The Ballard Family*)

One: This Advent, we remember that with you, all things are possible.

**All: Show us the creative power of hope.  
Give us your peace that passes all understanding.  
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you.  
Deliver us from sorrow into joy.  
Teach us to love this world and all people as you love us.  
Fill our lives with your hope, peace, joy, and love this  
Christmas, that we may bear your light into the world.**

One: Let us welcome Christ into our hearts and homes.

**All: God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come.**

### Call to Worship (*The Worship Sourcebook*)

One: Let us go, in heart and mind, to see what has come to pass.  
Let us go with the shepherds:

**All: Let us go to find the Savior!**

One: Let us go with the wise ones:

**All: Let us go to find God's promise, born for us!**

One: Let us go with the poor and humble:

**All: Let us go to find our King, born in a lowly manger.**

One: Let us go with all the world, with all the peoples of the nations.  
Come, let us worship, come, let us adore him:

**All: Christ the Lord!**

\***Hymn No. 121** “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

### Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God,  
you have come to us once again,  
humble and meek,  
yet mighty enough to save us all.**

You come to us even though we turn away,  
afraid to believe that any good could come to us,  
trusting in the sure confidence of worldly things,  
instead of the fragility of hope...

We are humbled by your grace.

**Forgive us, Lord, for not being ready for you.  
Accept our hasty preparations,  
the swaddling cloths and mangers of our lives,  
and touch us once more with your Good News.**

### Moment of Silence

### Words of Assurance (From *John 1:12*)

One: To all who received him,  
to those who believed in his name,  
he gave the right to become children of God.  
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

\***Hymn No. 581** “Glory Be to the Father”

**“Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it  
was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen, amen.”**

### Passing of Peace

One: May the Peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

**Anthem** “Oh, I Would Sing of Mary's Child” – Lovelace - *Sanctuary Choir*

### Scripture

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: *Psalms 97: 1-12*  
Old Testament PG 551, Large Print 677-8

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: *Luke 2:8-20*  
New Testament PG 58-9, Large Print 71

### Prayer of Illumination

**Sermon** “Looking Up, Looking Down” - *Rev. Drew Harrison*

\***Affirmation of Faith** (From *A Brief Statement of Faith*)

**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.

### Invitation to Offering

### Offertory

\***Doxology No. 606** “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”  
**“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all  
creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise  
Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.”**

### Unison Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, your gifts are more than we deserve. We give you  
our thanks as we offer up our gifts. Accept them, bless them, and  
let them serve your kingdom as we do. Amen.

### Invitation to Communion

### Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise to God.**

Pastor: It is right and a good and joyful thing...  
therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

### The Prayers of the People

*Chic, Alyssa, Denise, Patrick, the family of Martha, Erin, Rhett, Rachel,  
Jamie, Ron, the family of Sandra, Meg, Gorman, Heather, Joanna,  
Dorothy, Sara, Jim, David, Ted, William, Mimi, Rachael, Laura, Russell,  
Phyllis, Aaron, Nic, Douglas*

### The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Words of Institution Rev. Drew Harrison

The Sharing of the Supper

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God, you came down to earth this night to dwell and live among us. Enter into us and fill us with your light, that as we go from this place, our hearts, mouths, and hands proclaim the good news that unto us, a Savior is born.

\*Hymn No. 122 "Silent Night"

\*Benediction

\*Benediction Hymn No. 83 (v.1) "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"  
"Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee."

Postlude "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" - Pachelbel

\*\*\*\*\* *Please stand as you are able.* \*\*\*\*\*



*Music Notes*

Today's prelude comes from Walter Pelz's set of 9 Variations on "From Heaven Above," based on the tune "Vom Himmel Hoch," originally written by Martin Luther in 1535 for a Christmas Eve pageant. The anthem was composed in 1959 by Austin C. Lovelace (1919-2010), called by many the dean of American church music. The postlude is a setting of "Vom Himmel Hoch" by Baroque organist/composer Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706). We thank the Sanctuary Choir for sharing special music with us this Christmas Eve.

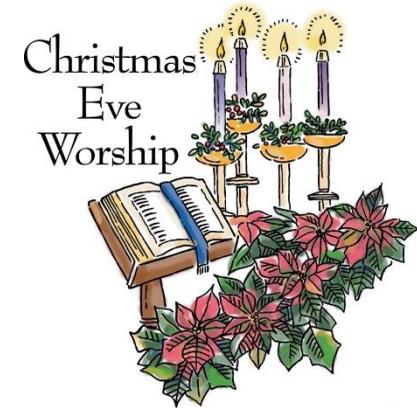
*Merry Christmas*



<i>This Week's Calendar</i> December 24-31	
<i>Friday</i> December 24	<b>Christmas Eve</b> 7 PM Christmas Pageant - Sanctuary 11 PM Candlelight Worship Service - Sanctuary
<i>Saturday</i> December 25	<b>Christmas Day</b>
<i>Sunday</i> December 26	10 AM Worship Service (Hymns & Carols) - Sanctuary/Livestreaming
<i>Monday</i> December 27	
<i>Tuesday</i> December 28	6 PM Youth Group Movie/Game Night - Social Hall
<i>Wednesday</i> December 29	
<i>Thursday</i> December 30	
<i>Friday</i> December 31	<b>New Year's Eve</b>



*Join us for our regular worship service at  
10 AM on Sundays*



*"God's Open House"*

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10 AM Worship Service  
December 24, 2021  
Candlelight Christmas Eve  
Rev. Drew Harrison