

Sing out with praise! Hope has come to us: to poor and to rich, to old and young, to the infinite sky and the reaved earth, to people of all nations and all hues of color. Break forth together in singing! Jesus is born! As we light the Christ candle, let us sing with praise and joy, for Hope is born today.

O come let us Adore him!

*Hymn No. 133 (vv. 1, 3, 4)

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

Congregation

**O Christ, you were born in a humble stable,
because there was no room for you in the inn.
Forgive us when we foolishly think
that there is no room for you in our lives.
When we close the doors of our hearts to your word,
forgive us, and burst through them with your love.
When we close the doors of our minds to your challenge,
forgive us, and burst through them with your love.
When we close the doors of our homes, our churches, and our cities
to people you would have us welcome,
forgive us, and speak your angel’s words to us once more:
“Do not be afraid.”**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Rev. Meredith Kemp-Pappan

*Sung Response Hymn No. 119 (vv. 1, 3)

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”
Brad Stipcak, organ

THE WORD

*The Word of God in scripture and interpreted in proclamation
is the center of worship.*

Prayer of Illumination

First Lesson

Isaiah 9: 2-7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

For a child has been born for us,

a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

“Christmas Lullaby”
George Stone
Trinity Heritage Choir
Jaron Marcus, piano
Erin Wood, harp

Second Lesson

Luke 2: 1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Anthem

“Still, Still, Still”
Arr. Luboff
Heritage Choir
Erin Wood, Harp

Third Lesson

Luke 2: 8-20

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the

glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Meditation

“A Most Unusual Gift”

Rev. Meredith Kemp-Pappan

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*We respond to the Word of God in prayer and by offering
ourselves and our substance.*

*Hymn No. 113

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

*Affirmation of Faith

Adapted from “A Brief Statement of Faith”

**In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth,
praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”**

Prayers of the People

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.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“The First Nowell”
Arr. Whitney Dobyns
Erin Wood, harp

Prayer of Dedication

SHARING OF THE LIGHT

Worship equips us to go forth to serve God in the world.

*Hymn No. 122, vv. 1, 2, 4

“Silent Night”

*Charge and Blessing

*Sending Hymn- GTG 134, vv. 1, 2, 4

“Joy to the World”

*Postlude

“Joy to the World”
Arr. Austin Lovelace
Brad Stipcak, organ

You may hand in your candles to the ushers as you leave the sanctuary.

*Please rise in body or spirit.

Participating in Worship Leadership:

Rev. Meredith Kemp-Pappan, Presider

Jurahee Shriver, liturgist

Brad Stipcak, Director of Music, Organ

Jaron Marcus, Piano

Erin Wood, Harp

Peter Sandquist, Audio/Visual

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