

ORDER OF SERVICE

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25, 2022 • 10:00 AM



PRAYER OF PREPARATION

God of wisdom and wonder, you stir in our hearts and bring us joy; you stir in our minds and bring us insight; you stir in the world and bring hope to lives who welcome you.

In Jesus, you came as a little child, stirring up our love, so now we come to adore you with the angels; to bow in welcome with the shepherds; to kneel in wonder with the magi; to ponder your mystery with Joseph; to love and cherish you with Mary.

We come to you with humble hearts full of joy because you came to us first, and stay with us always, Wise and wonderful God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Neil Trainer

CALL TO WORSHIP and LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

David & Barbara Rood

One: Christmas Day is a time for rejoicing!

All: **Arise and shine for our light has come. The time of waiting is over.**

One: Amid all that is still wrong in the world, we proclaim the God comes to us in Jesus Christ.

All: **Arise and shine for our light has come. The glory of God is revealed.**

One: We gather on this joyful day, to celebrate the mystery of Christ's love that will never let us go.

All: **Arise and shine for our light has come. The glory of God is revealed. Our Savior is born.**

One: As we light the Christ candle, trust that the light of God has come in Jesus and can never be put out. Stand open to the presence and power of God with us in Christ, even here, even now.

HYMN #27, vs. 1-3 "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

FIRST READING "Remembering That It Happened Once" by Wendell Berry

Neil Trainer

SECOND READING "You are Holy" by Lucien Deiss

Emily Mitchell

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Emily Mitchell

One: Merciful God, we confess that we have not lived as your faithful children. We have kept silent in the midst of prejudice and hatred. We have been idle in the face of violence and injustice. We have not been a light to the nations, and our lives have not revealed your glory.

All: **Forgive us, we pray.
Cast out our sin and enter in;
be born in us today.**
(silence for personal prayers of confession)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

One: Sing to the Lord a new song! God has done wonderful things.

All: **In the name of Jesus Christ, praise God, we are forgiven!**

GREETINGS AMONG THE CHURCH FAMILY

HYMN #28 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

THIRD READING "Into the Darkest Hour" by Madeleine L'Engle

Katy Korpi

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

COLOR BELLS

FOURTH READING "Let the Stable Still Astonish" by Leslie Leyland Fields Chris Jackson

HYMN #37 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

FIFTH READING "This is Christmas" by Howard Thurman Rick Jackson

SOLO "On This Day Earth Shall Ring" Hymn #46 Barry & Catherine Baker

SCRIPTURE PRESENTATION Galatians 4:4-7 (The Message) Edna Bulaong

MEDITATION Emily Mitchell

SIXTH READING "Let me not keep Christmas" by Linda Felver Liz Randles

OFFERING Medley of Angel Hymns Linda Clugston and Sande Gillette

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Holy God, it was your love that sent Jesus to our world, and it is in love that we offer these gifts back to you. Receive them, we pray, along with our gratitude for the gift of immeasurable grace you have given us. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER Emily Mitchell

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

SEVENTH READING "It Is Not Over" by Ann Weems Dave Randles

HYMN #29 "Go Tell It On the Mountain"

CORPORATE BLESSING "A Blessing for Love to Come at Christmas" by Kate Bowler All

**God, we are waiting for love,
not the simple kind or the sweep-you-off-your-feet kind,
but the absurd kind.**

**The kind wrapped in rags,
resting in a bucket of animal feed.
Love enough to save us all.**

**Blessed are we who look for Love
deeper, fuller, truer - than we have known,
than we could have ever hoped for.**

**Blessed are we who seek you,
the light that dawned so long ago
in that dark stable.
Love given.
Love received.**

**Receive this gift, dear one.
Love has come for you. Amen.**