

Merry Christmas

and a

Happy New Year



☞ Christmas Eve 2022 7pm ☞

Advent Candle Lighting:

In this season of expectant waiting,  
we have held hope in our hearts;

**hope that in the Infant Jesus  
is our promise for transformation.**

*(the candle of Hope is lit)*

Hope leads us to pray for peace, acting peacefully  
to cultivate harmony in all our relations

**In that peace, we find the Prince of Peace.**

*(the candle of Peace is lit)*

Peace transforms into joyful celebration;  
walls torn down, chasms filled, barriers levelled valleys bridged.

**Joy inspires us to dance with abandon.**

*(the candle of Joy is lit)*

Joy embraced, fosters love that makes all things new

**And, in that newness  
we discover the deep meaning of love shared.**

*(the candle of Love is lit)*

Love, self-given through self-emptying, through humility  
**shows us the Christ, still completely vulnerable**

**yet filled with promise.**

*(the Christ candle is lit)*

**Hymn # 6 “A Candle Is Burning” Verse 5** (Please remain seated)

**\*Hymn # 60 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

Call to Worship:

Glory to God! It is a wonderful night!

**The night we gather to share in the Christmas story!**

The night we relive the marvel and excitement  
of a newly born child.

**We come together as one in worship  
and to adore Emmanuel, the child of God.**

We come tonight to experience God born anew within us all.

**This is a holy night.**

This is a night of wonder. Come, let us worship!

**Choir Anthem ~ “Sing We Now of Christmas”**

Opening Prayer:

God of Innocence and Love,  
you came on a cold, deep night  
to lonely shepherds watching their flock.

**Thank you, God of the starlit night!**

Angels’ voices rang out over the hills  
with a story of a precious birth  
and a hymn of rejoicing.

**Thank you, God of angelic voices!**

You were wrapped in swaddling cloth,  
laid in an animal manger.

Your first visitors were animals and shepherds.

**Thank you, God of the welcoming stable!**

You brought with you new hope for tomorrow,  
love and peace for the earth.

**Thank you, God of new hope!**

**On this night, with all the earth,  
we are rejoicing. Amen.**

*Children’s Story*

**Solo ~ “Do Not Be Afraid” ~ sung by Aimee Clifford**

*Communion*

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-14

**Choir Anthem ~ “Sing Lullaby”**

*Meditation*

**\*Hymn # 74 “What Child Is This?”**

The Offering / Offertory Prayer

Prayers of the People

*Benediction*

**\*Hymn # 67 “Silent Night, Holy Night”**