

✧ Christmas Eve 2023 7pm ✧

Lighting the Advent Candles:

*(light one candle)*

May the carols of angels lead us to Hope,  
the Hope born in a manger this night.

*(light one candle)*

May the wisdom of shepherds and magi lead us to Peace,  
the Peace born in the manger this night.

*(light one candle)*

May the stars dancing in the sky lead us to Joy,  
the Joy born in a manger this night.

*(light one candle)*

May the courage of Mary and Joseph lead us to Love,  
the Love born in a manger this night.

*(light the Christ candle)*

May the Light of Christ be born in our hearts once again  
this Christmas may we discover hope peace joy and love  
as we come to the manger this night. Amen.

Call to Worship:

Good news! For all who are afraid:

**Jesus is born to end our fear.**

Good news! For all who are discouraged:

**Jesus is born; hope is alive.**

Good news! For all who are lonely and despairing:

**Jesus is born; God is with us.**

Good news! For all who are disillusioned and feeling sad:

**Jesus is born; hearts will be mended.**

Good news! Good news!

**Jesus is born; joy is in the air.**

**\*Hymn # 60 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"**

Opening Prayer:

O Gracious God, we celebrate the birth  
of a tiny babe, born of a young woman.

We marvel at the miraculous story shared with us,  
a story of when love came to Mary to bring us  
out of the shadows into the glorious light.

**Come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

We celebrate how you came to dwell among us, O God,  
joining us just where we are, just as we are, in joy,  
in sorrow, in pain, in tragedy.

**Come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

You experienced our ways through your life in Christ.

**Come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.**

You showed us the way, the ultimate truth.

You let us glimpse or touch your face,  
your presence, your nature.

**Come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

Never can we say we do not know you,  
for you revealed your innermost essence to us:

**for the Word became flesh and dwelt alongside us  
and among us.**

Loving and Gracious One, we know you are with us  
now and forever, and so we declare:

**Come let us adore him, Christ the Lord. Amen.**

***Choir Anthem ~ "Celtic Nativity Song"***

*Communion (thanks to Choir members for serving)*

***Choir Anthem ~ "Do Not Be Afraid" sung by Aimee Clifford***

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-20

Meditation

***Choir Anthem ~ "The Beautiful Impossible"***

Offertory/Prayers of the People

***\*Hymn # 67 "Silent Night, Holy Night"***

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*