
Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion

December 24, 2009

5:30 pm

GATHERING & WELCOME

PRELUDE *The First Noel* arr. Innes

(We center ourselves for worship as the light of Christ is brought into our midst.)

*CALL TO WORSHIP Pastor Morris

From the North and South and East and West we have journeyed to this place,
to worship together and seek God's holy light.

**As we gather to worship this Christmas Eve, may the light sent from God shine
in the shadows of our lives to show us God's way.**

*HYMN NO. 234 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* ADESTE FIDELES
(vs. 1 -3 & 6)

*UNISON PRAYER

**Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of Your one true light. May
that light illuminate our hearts and shine in our words and deeds. May the hope, the
peace, the joy and the love represented by the birth in Bethlehem this night fill our lives
and become part of all that we say and do. May we share the divine life of your son Jesus
Christ, even as he humbled himself to share our humanity. Amen.**

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

(We invite you to share the peace of Christ with those around you!)

RESPONSE NO. 230 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* ST. LOUIS

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie; above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and
fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

A READING FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH Isaiah 9:2-7

ANTHEM *Candlelight Carol* Rutter

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

David and Karen Pruitt

Tonight we light the candle of Christ. In the babe of Bethlehem, God brings light that
dispels the darkness.

**Light the Christ candle. Let it remind us that in Jesus Christ is the light of the world,
and we are called to follow his light.**

RESPONSE NO. *The Advent Candle Shines*

**The Advent candle shines with grace and mercy from our God above.
Come to the Light and you'll receive God's gift of hope, peace, joy and love.**

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE Luke 2:1-7

HYMN NO. 217 *Away in a Manger* AWAY IN A MANGER

(All children are invited to come to the front to sing.)

*A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE Luke 2:8-20

MESSAGE The Inn Keeper's Story Pastor Morris

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Ave, Ave, the Angel Sang* Lau

(All financial gifts this evening will be used to support Greensboro Urban Ministry)

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

We lift up our hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you...

And so with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and
join their unending hymn singing;

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of endless love, heaven and earth are full of
your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name
name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ...

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we come to offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving, as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us. As we proclaim together, the mystery of our faith, singing:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!

Pour our your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, O Lord, and on these gifts of bread and wine...

We pray this through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church. All honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, both now and forever. **Amen.**

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass 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.

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

(You are invited to come forward as the ushers direct. As you come forward we invite you to join with us in singing Hymn Nos. 216, 219, 230. After you have received Holy Communion you are invited to kneel at the altar for a moment of prayer before returning to your seat.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*SHARING THE LIGHT

Silent Night
(See insert)

arr. Courtney

(As we sing this beautiful carol, we will share the light of Christ with one another. After your candle has been lit, we invite you to light the candle of the person next to you.)

*CHRISTMAS DECLARATION

Joy to the World
(See insert)

ANTIOCH

(As the ushers direct, everyone is invited to gather on the front plaza to sing Christmas carols as we share the good news of Christmas with the world. Please extinguish your candles and place in the metal trash cans provided at the exits.)

**As you are able, please stand*

GRACE CHURCH UNITED METHODIST



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PRELUDE

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arr. Innes

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*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Morris

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.

As we gather to worship this Christmas Eve, may the light sent from God shine in the shadows of our lives to show us God's way.

*HYMN NO. 234

O Come, All Ye Faithful
(vs. 1 -3 & 6)

ADESTE FIDELES

*UNISON PRAYER

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(We invite you to share the peace of Christ with those around you!)

RESPONSE NO. 230

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

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A READING FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH

Isaiah 9:2-7

ANTHEM

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RESPONSE NO.

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The Advent candle shines with grace and mercy from our God above. Come to the Light and you'll receive God's gift of hope, peace, joy and love.

FIRST READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 2:1-7

HYMN NO. 217

Away in a Manger

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*SECOND READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 2:8-20

MESSAGE

The Inn Keeper's Story

Pastor Morris

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Ave, Ave, the Angel Sang

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It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you...

And so with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn singing;

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of endless love, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods,
rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

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