



**The Nativity of Our Lord**

**Family Service**

**December 24, 2020**

*Prelude: A Manger Medley* | Tunes: IRBY, W ZLOBIE LEZY, and CRADLE SONG; Arr. Lee Dengler

### **Advent Wreath Candle Lighting**

**Celebrant:** Tonight we light all the candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE, the third candle is JOY, and the fourth candle is LOVE. The center candle is the Christ candle.

*The candles are lit.*

**Scripture:** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6

**Prayer:** “O God of hope, peace, joy, and love. As Mary and Joseph welcomed you into the world, now help us welcome you into our lives. Give us courage to hope; strength to seek peace. Fill our spirits with joy; and our hearts with love. Through Jesus Christ, the Lord of all. Amen.”

### **Christmas Eve Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray together.

**O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.**

### **Building of the Crèche**

*The Very First Christmas* by Eilidh Rose

### **Hymn - Away in a Manger**

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
Close by me for ever, and love me I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

### **The Gift of Jesus in the Eucharist (which means Thanksgiving)**

*Please have the consecrated bread or a piece of bread or cookie available for the Eucharist/Agape Feast*

*Celebrant*     The Lord be with you.  
*People*         **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant*     Lift up your hearts.  
*People*         **We lift them to the Lord.**  
*Celebrant*     Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People*         **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Thank you, God, for making us and our wonderful world. Wherever we are in your world, we should always thank you, through Jesus, your Son.

Jesus lived as one of us; Jesus died on the Cross for us; Jesus is alive because you gave him life again; Jesus is with us now. So, with the angels and everyone in heaven, we say together:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
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.**

Great and wonderful God, we remember when Jesus had supper with his friends the night before he died, he took the bread; he thanked you, broke it, gave it to his friends and said:

Take this and eat it – this is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine; he thanked you, gave it to his friends and said:

All of you drink from this cup – because this is my blood – the new promise of God’s love. Do this every time you drink it to remember me.

Together we remember that Jesus is always with us.

So loving God, remembering how dearly Jesus loves us, we should love him too. Send your Holy Spirit, gentle as a dove, on us and on these gifts, so that, with everyone who eats and drinks

this bread and wine, the body and blood of Jesus, we may be full of your life, and goodness. Help us to walk hand in hand with Jesus and live our lives for him. All honor and glory belong to you, Almighty God, through Jesus, your Son, with the Holy Spirit: one God, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven hallowed by 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 and ever. Amen.**

### **Breaking of the Bread**

**We break this bread together as one community. May the food and companionship we share nourish our bodies, hearts and minds, and may our spirits be refreshed with the love and enduring presence of Emmanuel, God with us, now and always. Amen.**

*A moment of silent prayer is observed as the community partakes in the feast.*

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**We thank you God for the gift of Jesus, the Holy Child of Bethlehem. We thank you for the gift of Jesus in the bread and wine and agape feast. Help us to keep Jesus in our hearts, and help us to shine his light and love always and everywhere. Amen.**

### **Hymn - Silent Night**

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight, glories stream from heaven a far,  
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia; Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

### **Christmas Prayer and Blessing**

Loving God, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. **Amen.**

May baby Jesus, the Christ, who by his birth gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

