

Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

Nativity of the Lord / Christmas Day

December 25, 2022

The asterisk () indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Jesus the Light of the World, as we celebrate your birth, may we begin to see the world in the light of understanding you give us. As you chose the lowly, the outcasts, and the poor to receive the greatest joy, may we be present in this time in worship of the greatest birthday gift we can share with everyone we meet. Help us to give the present of time and give of ourselves as the spirit of Christmas guides us. Amen.

Gathering Music

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

"In Dulci Jubilo"

arr. Diane Bish

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

"Love Has Come"

arr. Eric Myers, 2012

Love has come: a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
Hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love has come: and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

***Lighting of the Christ Candle**

Leader: Let us pray as we prepare to light the Christ candle.

People: **Holy God of Love, there is light in our lives because of the abundance of your steadfast love. A love so vast, so deep, so real, that you became one of us. May we live within the power of this love. And may we share it's light with the world. Amen!** (*lighting of the Christ candle*)

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon***Call to Confession*****Prayer of Confession** (*in unison*)

It's the day after Christmas and all through the house
 Is there praise for our Savior, children, or spouse?
 Yesterday our home was noisy with excitement and glee
 As children and grown folks thought which gifts are for me?
Forgive us Lord!

For paying our gifts so much attention that we paid your miraculous
 birth no heed.

For getting impatient with our church family, who insisted that we
 pause to offer thanks for your birth.

Forgive us Lord!

For spending too much on gifts that yield temporary happiness.
 For amassing so many Christmas memories that barely mentioned
 your name.

Forgive us Lord!

Remind us of the miracle of your birth, the significance of your life,
 The sacrifice of your death, all that we might live anew as children of
 Jesus Christ. Amen! (Silent prayer of confession.)

Assurance of Pardon**Response**

“From Heaven Above” (verse 5)

#111



"Glo-ry to God in highest heaven, who un-to us the Christ has given." With



an-gels sing the Savior's birth, a glad new year to all the earth.

Ministry of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Children's Sermon

First Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-11

Choir Anthem "He Is Born, the Divine Child" arr. Home Wickline, 1941

(refrain) He is born, the Divine Child! Let us sing the festal lay.

He is born, the Divine Child! Jesus Christ is born today.

Let us sing with glad cherubim and with bands of seraphim;

As they joyfully do sing, at thy birth, O new born King. (refrain)

Hail the night and hail the morn that beheld the Savior born;

When in Bethlehem's wakeful fold, tidings good an angel told: (refrain)

Tidings full of joy and grace to each son of Adam's race;

God in form of man arrayed, God for man a servant made. (refrain)

As we all with one accord bow before our honored Lord.

Virgin born, thy praise we sing, hail thy birth, thou new born King. (refrain)

Second Scripture Reading

John 1:1-14

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Presence, the Greatest Gift!"

Pastor Steve Watters

The Response to the Word

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***Hymn**

“Born in the Night, Mary’s Child”

#158

Prayers of the People and 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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to Offering

***Response**

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory” (vs. 4)

#143

**All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!**

***Prayer of Dedication**

The Sending of God’s People

***Closing Hymn**

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

#132

***Charge and Blessing**

***Congregational Response**

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain” (refrain)

#136

Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - erywhere;

go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

***Postlude**

"From Heaven Above"

arr. Wilbur Held

Pastors: Steve Watters

Liturgist: Paul Oswalt

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd

Organist: Carol Welk

Acolyte: Devin Griggs, Darren Cox