

**Anthem: “O Holy Night”**, sung by the Admiral Choir

**Prayer**

Holy One, tonight is a night for good news.

**Tonight is a night for candles in the window and joyful music in the air.**

Tonight is a night for family around the table, and children too excited to sleep.

**Tonight is a night for Christmas caroling and storytelling.**

Tonight is a night for good news.

**And we are so grateful for that.**

We are so grateful for the good news moments you sprinkle throughout our days.

**So tonight, with-us God, we ask for your presence among us.**

So just like the shepherds on that first Christmas, may we hear the voice of angels. May you fill our hearts with a holy hope. And may we know, deep in our bones, that your good news is louder than fear.

**And until the day when every reason to be afraid has been washed away, we ask that you continue to inspire courage, conviction, and hope in us. Point our hearts toward sources of joy. Remind us of the good news of this night, and may we always hold onto some portion of the wonder, the mystery, and the joy found here. Amen!**

**Scripture John 1:1-14**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

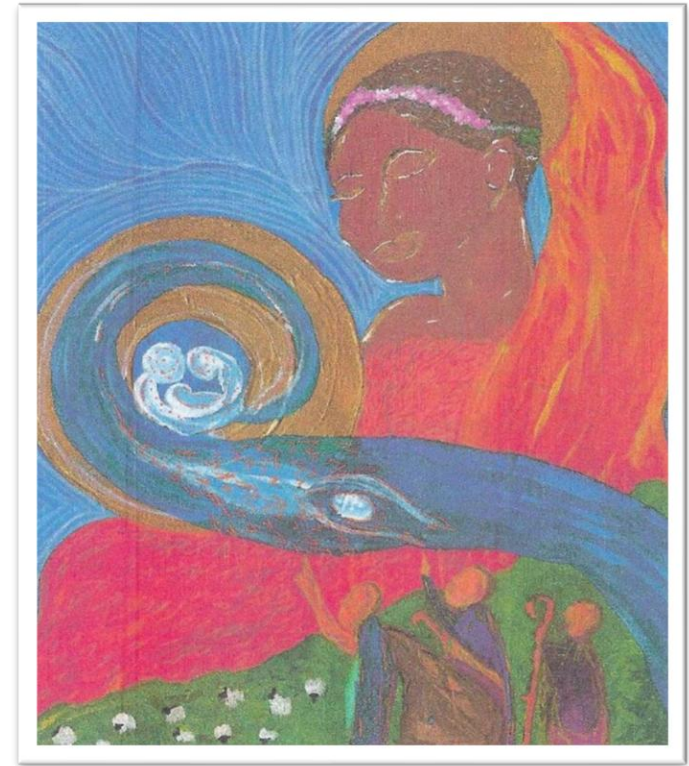
There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

**Sharing of the Light**

**Sending Hymn: “Silent Night”**



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**CHRISTMAS EVE FESTIVAL**

**Opening Song: “O Come All You Faithful”**

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

On this holy night, we come,  
**dazzled and awe-struck,**  
**ready to sing alongside the angels.**

On this holy night, we come,  
**eager and hopeful,**  
**ready to journey alongside the shepherds.**

On this holy night, we come,  
**quietly and tenderly,**  
**ready to worship alongside Mary.**

On this holy night, we come,  
**singing, trusting, believing, proclaiming:**  
**Good news is louder than fear.**  
Let us worship our good news, with-us God.

**Hymn: “Joy to the World”**

**Candle Lighting**

In a fearful world, where do you see the  
presence of God?  
**We see God’s fingerprints all around us. We  
see God in the beauty of the stars. We see  
God in the love of this community. We see  
God in the dreams we hold for a better world.**  
You are right. Even in a fearful world, God  
is here. God is all around us.  
On this holy night, we light the Christ Candle  
as a reminder of this good news. May this  
flicker of light help us remember that even  
in a fearful world, God’s love is all around us.  
*(Lighting the Candle)*  
**Thanks be to God for a love like that! Amen.**

**Scripture:** Isaiah 9:6-7

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**Hymn: “Jesus! O What a Wonderful Child”**

**Scripture:** Micah 5:2-4

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth,

**Hymn: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”**

**Scripture:** Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

**Hymn: “Away in a Manger”**

**Scripture:** Luke 2:8-12

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

**Hymn: “The First Noel”**

**Scripture:** Luke 2:13-20

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

**Hymn: “Hark the Herold Angels Sing”**

**Reflection,** Rev Allysa De Wolf