

GATHERING OF THE CHURCH

MUSICAL PRELUDE, BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Rejoice, for God is with us — Emmanuel.

PEOPLE: In the darkness of our world shines God's holy light.

LEADER: Now there is reason to hope, to love, to laugh, to live.

PEOPLE: God is truly with us. We are not alone.

ALL TOGETHER: Thanks be to God!

HYMN OF PRAISE “It Came upon the Midnight Clear” TUMH # 218

OPENING PRAYER (in unison)

Gracious God, With joy and thanksgiving we gather as Your people. We have come to hear again the timeless story of Christ's birth. In the excitement of this night, quiet our hearts that we may know the peace and fullness of this holy time. Shine, O Light, in the darkness of our world. Sing, O angels, in the stillness of our hearts, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those God favors.” This we pray in the name of the Child of Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord and Savior. Amen.

OFFERTORY **# DOXOLOGY # 95** **# OFFERTORY PRAYER**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Tonight, angels far and near sing tender lullabies; well-worn fabric full of years holds in the warmth of parental love; animals and shepherds crowd in tight, glowing with adoration, while a muffled cry squeezes out to greet the world. Tonight we give thanks for every child among us. Each new birth— regardless of circumstances — reminds us of the preciousness of life, the potential of tomorrow, the promise of God. On this Christmas Eve, we light the Christ candle for the child-King, the infant-Redeemer, the lowly- Lord. And now we know. . . He is born and nothing will ever be the same! Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God with us, Emmanuel.

(Light the Christ Candle)

SPECIAL MUSIC

The Embrock Family

(Gabriel, Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, the angel, the shepherd and the king candles are lighted)

SCRIPTURE READING

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 9: 2-7

NEW TESTAMENT(GOSPEL)

Luke 2:1-20

SPECIAL MUSIC

The Naig Family

MESSAGE OF LIFE

Pastor Louie

PRAYER OF CONFESSION and PARDON (in unison)

Merciful God, we confess that often we find darkness more comfortable than light. We confess that we find your good news frightening and unsettling, especially when we consider its demands as well as its promises. We confess that Christmas has become more to us than the birthday of Jesus, partly because we do not want a Christ-Child in our lives or in our world. Forgive us, break us, bend us, remake us. Give us the courage to lay ourselves open to the wonder and healing of your coming. Be born again into our world, be born again into our hearts and lives. Hear now our silent and personal confessions as we prepare ourselves for Your nativity. Amen

MINISTER: The true light that enlightens all has come into the world. That light shines on in the darkness, and the darkness has never been able to put it out. This is the good news: God has heard our confession. God has forgiven our sin. Thanks be to God!

We are filled with joy for we have heard good news of great joy.

We are filled with love for we have tasted the sign of God's great love.

We are filled with the hope for the angels still sing in our world and there is a Light for us to follow. Praise the Lord!

HYMN OF PREPARATION “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” TUMH #626

THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE PASSING OF THE LIGHT

HYMN OF WORSHIP

Silent Night, Holy Night”

TUMH #239

BLESSING

SONG OF SENDING FORTH

“Let Us Now Depart in Thy Peace”

TUMH #668

POSTLUDE

LEAVING FOR SERVICE

SHARING THE PEACE

WORSHIP ENDS

SERVICE BEGINS