



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

DECEMBER 24, 2023

Pastor Greg Anderson

Prelude Oh Holy Night JoJo Knapper

Opening Hymn Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful LBW # 45

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

The Old Testament Lesson ~ A responsive reading of Isaiah 9:2, 6-7a

Men: **The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.**

Women: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

Men: **For to us a child is born,**

Women: To us a son is given

Men: **And the government shall be upon his shoulder,**

Women: And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,

Men: **Mighty God,**

Women: Everlasting Father,

Men: **Prince of Peace,**

ALL: *Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end.*

Hymn Response to the Reading

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear LBW # 54

The Christmas Story

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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 for them in the inn.

Hymn Response to the Reading

Away in the Manger

LBW # 67

The Christmas Story

Luke 2:8-14

In that 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.” 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!”

Hymn Response to the Reading

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing LBW # 60

The Christmas Story

Luke 2:15-20

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. But 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, as it had been told them.

Sermon

Hymn Response to the Reading

Angels We Have Heard on High LBW # 71

Offering Little Drummer Boy JoJo Knapper

Lighting of the Candles

The Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn Silent Night, Holy Night LBW # 65

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Extinguishing of the Candles

Hymn Joy to the World LBW # 39

Postlude

Merry Christmas