

**December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**Christmas Eve Communion Service**  
**Worship Leader: Kristy Reimers-Loader**  
**Officiating Communion: Rev. Helen Reid**  
**Music Director: Chris White**

**Introit “O Come, O Come Emanuel” (VU 1 vs 1)**

**Opening Prayer**

On this holy night we come to this place,  
seeking the peace, hope, love and joy of this season.

**Open our hearts, Lord, to receive the good news of the Saviour’s birth.**

Hark, the herald angels sing, ‘The Saviour is born!’

**And all creation rejoices!**

**Christmas Eve: Hope is a Star**

Choir: Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn, telling the world that the Saviour is born. Love is a flame that burns in our hearts, Jesus has come and will never depart.

**Congregation: When God is a child there’s joy in our song. The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be afraid, none shall be afraid.**

**Christmas Eve Responsive Litany**

**Tonight we mark the end of the anticipation and the beginning of the greatest story.**

Hallelujah, Christ is born!

**Our hope have become reality. We walk into the light.**

Hallelujah, Christ is born!

Let peace reign throughout the world. Let our hearts find calm.

Hallelujah, Christ is born!

May we feel the joy of his coming long after this season ends.

Hallelujah, Christ is born!

Love has come down from heaven and is all around us.

Hallelujah, Christ is born!

**Christmas Eve Candle Lighting**

Tonight, we light all the candles, The first, for hope, the second, for peace. The third to show our joy and the fourth to remind us of the love that fills this room. And now we light the Christ Candle, symbolizing how Jesus adds to the combines light of the wreath to embrace the hope, peace, joy and love that he will bestow on the entire world.

**Choir/Congregation: When God is a child there’s joy in our song. The last shall be the first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be afraid, none shall be afraid.**

**Land Acknowledgement**  
**Affirming Vision Statement**  
**Lighting of the Affirming Candle**  
**Lighting of Peace Candle**

**Call to Worship**

The people who once lived in darkness have been given a great light!

**Praise be to God who has heard our cries.**

Our souls sing out God's praise!

**God has brought us a light of Hope and Peace.**

Tonight, in this place, the Light of God's Love is given to us!

**And we shall see that light and let it shine through our lives. AMEN.**

✠**OPENING HYMN "Oh Come, All Ye Faithful"**(VU 60 vss 1,3,4,5 & 1<sup>st</sup> Latin)

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**Prayer of Illumination**

Wisdom calls from the Scriptures!

**May the Word of God enlighten us!**

**Gospel Reading:** Luke 2:1-14

One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**ALL: Praise to Christ, the Living Word.**

**ANTHEM "Fall on Your Knees"**

**SERMON**

✠**HYMN: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" (VU 44)**

**Invitation to the Offering**

The Lord has blessed us richly in this time of gathering, friends;

**Let us share our blessings with our brothers and sisters.**

**Offertory (Offering Gathered with Reflection Music)**

**Doxology VU 236 vs 1**

**Offertory Prayer**

May all our prayers and the resources we've shared this night

**be for a blessing to our brothers and sisters and to our world.**

## Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

This is an open table. All who love our Lord and want to walk in his ways are welcome here.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn: "I Come with Joy" (VU 477)**

The Lord be with you

**Also with you.**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving:**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Mighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

**You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets. You loved the world so much you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour and Lord.**

As the angels sang glory to you in the highest and peace to your people on earth, so with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Sanctus #203 MV (seated)**

**O Holy, Holy Holy God, O God of time and space**

**All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace.**

**Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings your praise**

**And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always.**

Holy are you and blessed is your firstborn, Jesus Christ. As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem and there found no room, so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem and was despised and rejected.

**As in poverty of a stable Jesus was born, so by the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.**

As your Word became flesh, born of a woman, on that night long ago, so on the night in which he gave himself up for us he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

**When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, said, "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."**

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

### **Memorial Acclamation #204 MV (seated)**

**Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

**Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other; and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ come in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Child Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honour and glory is yours, Mighty God, now and forever.

Now we pray as Jesus taught us, Our Father

### **The Lord's Prayer (VU 959)**

### **Breaking the Bread and Sharing the Cup**

(as you receive the elements you may respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God")

### **Post Communion Prayer:**

Gracious God, in your abundant mercy you have given us your son to feed us here and to light our path into the coming year. May what we have said and done and eaten here put its mark upon us. Shape our attitudes and actions with your love for us as we connect with others. Give us joy in your faithfulness. This we pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

### **A NEW CREED (VU 918)**

### **✠CLOSING HYMN: "Silent Night" (VU 43)**

### **Christmas Eve Closing Prayer**

Gracious Jesus, you are with us now and we will never let you go. Help us to keep faith and be your servants through the doubt and uncertainty of everyday life. Your birth has renewed our spirit: may it stay strong within us. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our newborn King. Amen.

### **✠BENEDICTION/COMMISSIONING**

### **✠CHORAL AMEN 974**

### **✠SENDING FORTH HYMN "Joy to the World" (VU 59 vs 1-4)**

### **POSTLUDE:**