



Christmas Day
December 25, 2022

Christmas Day

We Gather to Worship

Prelude

What is This Lovely Fragrance

Paul Manz

One License #10-101.6

Welcome

***Call to Worship**

Friends, hope is:

Being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.

Peace is:

The wolf lying down with the lamb. A gift we can give each other.

Joy is:

The space between our breath and our laughter—contagious.

Love is:

Unquenchable, never-ending, born in a manger, here today.

Christmas is:

A love song to the world. The light that shines in the darkness.

Let us make a joyful noise!

Let us worship God.

***Hymn** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* 119

***Call to Confession**

Friends, we are a forgetful people.

It is why we need these candles, these visual reminders of the hope, love, and peace of God. It is also why we come to this space every week; we belong to one another and we need to sit side by side in these pews to remember that.

Thus, as a distracted and often absent people, let us confess our sins to a merciful God who is always present, never forgetful, and eternally gracious. Let us confess our sins:



Mary's Story

Hymn *Still, Still, Still* 124

A Shepherd's Story

Hymn *The First Nowell* 147

We Respond to God's Word

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Friends, we gather now for a time of prayer. In a few moments, I will invite you to lift up both the concerns weighing heavy on your heart as well as deep joys and celebrations. When prompted, you are invited to speak your prayers out loud, and as we listen to one another, may we know that God is listening, too. Through song and spoken words, let us pray:

(Sung, *Glory to God* 145)

“What Child is this

Who laid to rest

On Mary's lap is sleeping?

Whom Angels greet with anthems sweet,

While shepherds watch are keeping?”

Loving God, as we look inward, toward our own community and personal lives, we are keenly aware of our deep need for you, as well as the countless ways you have already blessed us. We offer our prayers for our local community to you now . . .

(Sung)

“So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,

Come Peasant, King to own Him

The King of Kings salvation brings,

Let loving hearts enthrone Him.”

Holy God, our world is crying out from near and far, groaning in pain. Thus we come to you, voicing concerns for our world, your good creation and the people in it. We offer our prayers for our world to you now. . .

(Sung)

“This, this is Christ the King,

Whom shepherds guard and Angels sing

Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,

The Babe, the Son of Mary.”

God, we forget the birth of your son Jesus Christ all too quickly, getting our own business, bad news, and worry. Despite our forgetfulness, you claim us and we are yours. So please hear our voices, raised in beautiful and diverse unity, as we pray the words your Son taught us to pray, saying:

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.

Reception of Tithes and Offering

Offertory *Still, Still, Still* Paul Manz
One License #10-360-09

***Doxology and Prayer of Dedication**

***Closing Hymn** *Joy to the World* 134

***Benediction**

***Postlude** *Procession on "Once in Royal David's City"* Arr. Alice Parker

Worship Note: Liturgy by Sarah Are at sanctifiedart.org. Art by Stushie Art.

**Please stand if you are able*



Rev. Mark R. Curtis, Senior Pastor
Rev. Meredith Loftis, Associate Pastor
Mr. Mark Pace, Choirmaster and Organist

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***Prayer of Confession**

Loving God, we are a forgetful people.

We confess that we want reconciliation to be quick and easy.

Remind us of the long walk to Bethlehem.

We are tempted to overlook the outcasts in society.

Remind us of the shepherds and their faithful witness.

We expect that you will move in us, without seeking you on our end.

Remind us of the magi—the way they searched for you, and the gifts they brought.

We get caught up in the business of our days.

Remind us of Mary and how she treasured sacred moments in her heart.

We wake up thinking only of ourselves.

Remind us of the daily choice we have to open our doors to people in need.

We fail to hear the voices of the young and the old.

Remind us that Mary and Joseph were young, and that your Son was brought into this world as a baby.

We lose our way, forgetting to seek you.

Remind us to look up, to look for your guiding light.

We are a forgetful people.

Forgive us, we pray. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

Brothers and Sisters, friends in Christ, hear this good news: “To you is born, this day, in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord”. God is here, God is love, and God loves you. You will never walk alone. You are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

***Musical Response**

Gloria in Excelsis Deo

Refrain 113

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

We Hear the Word Read and Proclaimed

Scripture

Luke 2:1-20

Joseph’s Story

Hymn

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

128

