## Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service December 24, 2023

**PRELUDE** "Sweet Little Jesus Boy" Margaret Cox Pianist

**WELCOME** Rev Edd Spencer

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev Edd Spencer

On a night long ago, when the stars shone brightly in the sky,

Jesus Christ was born.

Underneath the light of one especially bright star,

Jesus Christ was born.

In a plain and simple manger,

Jesus Christ was born.

With animals gathered all around,

Jesus Christ was born.

Wrapped in a mother's embrace and a father's care,

Jesus Christ was born.

So that we might know God better,

Jesus Christ was born.

### LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Rev Edd Spencer

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

"Jov to the World"

Joy to the World, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King. Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ. While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

A CHRISTMAS SOLO

"Gesu' Bambino (The Infant Jesus)"

by Frederick H Martens

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

"In Word and Song"

Luke 2:1-5 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.

Yet in the dark streets shineth, the everlasting light.

*The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.* 

Luke 2:6-7

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed

The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.

The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,

The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Luke 2:8-14

The first Noel, the angel did say,

Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay.

*In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,* 

On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noel! Noel! Noel! Noel!

Born is the King of Israel!

Luke 2:15-20

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains.

And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Matthew 2:1-2, 7-11

We three kings of Orient are bearing gifts we traverse afar, Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star,

O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,

Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

A CHRISTMAS **PRAYER** 

**A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE** 

"In a Manger, Hope, Peace, Joy and Love"

Rev Edd Spencer

Rev Edd Spencer

Rev. Jan Watts

Rev Edd Spencer

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Rev. Edd Spencer

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.

Come and behold Him born the King of angels.

O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest.

O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him. Christ, the Lord.

#### **COMING TO THE LORD'S TABLE**

The Deacons will assist you to the Ministers to receive Holy Communion. After you receive Communion, please take one of the candles and return to your seat.

#### SHARING THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

CAROL OF PEACE

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child, holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds' quake at the sight Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly host sing alleluia Christ the Savior is Born! Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, son of God love's pure light Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth! Jesus, Lord at Thy birth!

THE CLOSING PRAYER

May we cradle Christ in our hearts, bow in the presence of the holy, and return to our homes with praise on our lips and joy in our souls. Amen.

Rev Edd Spencer

# Merry Christmas!