

## ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR DECEMBER 24, 2022

<b>Prelude</b>	<i>"The Shepherd at the Manger"</i> <i>Martin</i>	
	<i>Meditation on "The Coventry Carol"</i> <i>(arranged by Lasky)</i>	
<b>Gathering Music</b>	<i>"O Little Town of Bethlehem"</i>	<b>GTG 121</b>
<b>Call To Worship</b>	<i>"O Come All Ye Faithful"</i>	<b>GTG 133</b>

### THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

*Elsie Marshall and her son Kent Marshall*

We come to receive the light of Christ as we celebrate his miraculous birth; we receive this light that illuminates the holy path of hope, peace, joy, and love.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

<b>Hymn</b>	<i>"Away in a Manger"</i>	<b>GTG 115</b>
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### HEARING THE WORD

#### **Prayer of Illumination**

**Victoria Evans**

Gracious God, by the gift of your Holy Spirit show us the Word made flesh, good news of great joy for all, so that we may sing with the angels glory in the highest and peace on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Old Testament Reading: *Isaiah 9:2, 6 & 7***

*Ellie Sprague*

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

**Liturgical Dance**

*Eliza Evans*

**Gospel Reading: *Luke 2: 1-20***

*Rev. Barbara Macfie*

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is

the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying “Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

**Hymn (Solo)**

*“I Wonder as I Wonder”  
(Appalachian Folksong)*

*Ric Fernandes*

**Sermon**

*“A Very Special Present”*

*Rev. Barbara Macfie*

### **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**Affirmation of Faith**

*Hymn*

*Once in Royal David's City  
v. Ric Fernandez, v2-4 Congregation*

*GTG 140*

This popular Christmas Hymn was written by an Irish poet to illustrate for children the various articles of the Apostles’ Creed.

**Invitation To The Offertory**

*Silvia Ritchie*

From the fullness of God we have all received grace upon grace, Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

## Offertory

### *"Still, Still, Still"*

*(Arranged by Cherwin)*

## Doxology

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wiseman, I would my part;  
Yet what can I give him: give my heart.

## Offertory Prayer

*Silvia Ritchie*

**Glorious God, we sing with the angels to celebrate the tremendous gift of your Son Jesus! We rejoice with gladness. You give us wonderful joy and peace in our Savior. May we exult in your goodness with the exhilaration of children opening presents. As we bring our offerings, we ask that our lives would reflect your joy and generosity. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## The Sacrament of Communion

*Rev. Barbara Macfie*

## Invitation to the Table

### Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.  
Lift up your hearts.

**And also with you.**

**We lift them to the Lord our  
God**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

L: This is the night to let your hearts sing with joy. . .caroling the good news which is ours tonight.

**C: (sung) 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?**

