

**Welcome and Announcements**

Dr. Mary Lynn Polk, Lay Leader

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**Chiming of the Trinity**

**Prelude**

**\*Call to Worship**

Larry Moore, Director of Music Ministries

Leader: God of creation, shaper of seas and stars, of planets and of people,

**People: God is here with us.**

Leader: God, born in Bethlehem, gurgling, crying, laid in a manger,

**People: God is here with us.**

Leader: God, breath of the universe, flickering, dancing in the candle flame,

**People: God is here with us.**

Leader: God, Immanuel, amongst us, within us,

**People: We bring ourselves and our dreams, for we want to be here with you.**

**\*Carol No. 246**

*Joy to the World*

Antioch

**\*Invocation**

The Reverend Terry C. Martin

**God of earth and heaven: When you brought your firstborn into the world, You sent your angel messengers, swift as the winds, and your servants, like flames of fire, to tell the glad news. Give us courage in the midst of all the earth's shadows to praise you for the Light that overcomes; to sing glory of your beloved Son, who came to live among us, full of grace and truth. In his name we pray. Amen.**

**Call to Confession**

"No more let sin and sorrow grow." Jesus calls us to live in his light, to "prove the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love." Let us turn to God for forgiveness and live.

**Prayer of Confession**

**God of glory, you sent your son to take away our sins. We celebrate Jesus' birth, and we ask you to change us, heal us, make us your children. Help us to praise you by our lives for the gift of Jesus. Keep us from neglecting to honor Jesus with gifts of mercy and kindness, from failing to welcome your perfect love with love for each other, from allowing lesser lights to blind us to the Light that overcomes, from forgetting the call of the needy and the cry of the world for peace. We give you thanks for the love of Jesus, our friend, who lives among us. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance**

Good Christian friends, rejoice! Jesus Christ was born to save. He has opened heaven's door, and we are blessed forever more. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

**A Christmas Creed from Latin America**

**I believe in Jesus Christ and in the power of the Gospel, which began in Bethlehem. I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a small village, of whose coming the shepherds saw the sign, and for whom there was not room in the inn. I believe in the one whose life changed the course of history, for whom the kings of the earth had no power, and who was not understood by the proud. I believe in the one whom the poor, the oppressed, the discouraged, the afflicted, the sick, the blind, the leprous gave welcome and accepted as Lord and Savior. I believe in peace, reconciliation, forgiveness, and the transforming power of the Gospel. I believe that Christmas is strength and power, and that this world can change if with humility and with faith we kneel before the manger. I believe that I must be the first to do so.**

**\*Gloria No. 238 (refrain only)**

*Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

## The Lighting of the Christ Candle

Kathy Kelly, Program Coordinator

In a time of violence and despair, an ancient prophet gives good news:

**The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light...**

The boots of earth-shaking armies on the march, the soldiers' cloaks rolled in blood, are destined to be burnt, food for the fire.

**For a child has been born to us...**

Wide will be the dominion and boundless the peace...

**With justice and righteousness from now on, for evermore.**

We light the Christ candle, thankful that God has come to us, not as a conquering hero but as a child, whose faithful, peaceful life will follow God's way of love.

**Living God, come to our world. May the love of Christ shine brightly, at the center of our lives, spreading warmth and light, in us, in this congregation, and everywhere. Amen.**

## Scripture Lessons and Carols

Reading

Luke 2:1-7

Carol No. 250

*Once in Royal David's City*

Irby

Reading

Luke 2:8-14

Carol No. 218

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

Carol

Reading

Luke 2:15-16

Carol No. 229

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

Polish Carol

Reading

Luke 2:17-20

Carol No. 251

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Pastoral Prayer

The Reverend Terry C. Martin

Lord's Prayer (In Unison)

Offering

Offertory

*Christmas Time is Here*  
Dick Blosser, piano

Vince Guaraldi

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Mighty God, you founded the earth; the heavens are the work of your hands. We bring to you gifts of your own making; we honor you with what you have given us. We thank you for the goodness of this day and the bounty we enjoy. Accept our praise for the gift of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

**\*Hymn No. 240**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Mendelssohn

**\*Benediction**

Leader: Mysterious God, confounding our expectations, meeting us where we least expect to find you,

**People: Stay with us now.**

Leader: Child of the manger, healing our pain, sharing our weakness,

**People: Stay with us now.**

Leader: Source of life, birth of God within our own experience,

**People: Stay with us now.**

Leader: Stay with us in our frailty, stay with us on our journey,

**People: Walk beside us, live within us, lead us to glory, lead us home. Amen.**

**\*Postlude**

*\*Please stand if you are able*

*Nursery Provided*