

December 24, 2011 SERVICE OF WORSHIP

6:00 pm

Christmas Eve

Liturgical Color: White

Welcome

The Reverend Terry C. Martin

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
Chancel Bells

arr. Cathy Mokelbust

***Call to Worship**

The Reverend Terry C. Martin

Leader: Tonight old dreams die and new dreams come to life. The promise is fulfilled!

People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

Leader: Hope gives way to joy and prayer to proclamation.

People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

Leader: Our candles illuminate our story. Dawn invades midnight. The Light of the World has come.

People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

Leader: And this light is a light for all; igniting a flame in the soul, warming us from within, radiating love, lighting our lives with the presence of God-come-alive in human flesh within us and among us now and always.

People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

***Processional Hymn No. 234**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fidelis

***Call to Confession:**

The Reverend Terry C. Martin

Out of the darkness of our world, we have seen a great light. The birth of the Christ Child calls us to something special. Let our confession be our new beginning.

***Prayer of Confession (In Unison)**

Light of the World; you gave us the transforming birth of the child Jesus as a light for our path. Yet we confess that we shut our eyes to the light. We admit that we do not want to see the gift you have given us. We acknowledge our reluctance to see and share our gifts with our sisters and brothers. We are often dazzled by the glitter and tinsel the world has made of Christ's birth. We ask that your Spirit be lit within us, that the light of peace and justice may shine through us. We seek to receive and to share the gift of Christ's birth and death, again and again. Amen.

***Words of Assurance**

God comes to us now in this busy season to make all things new. God makes room for us even when there is no room at the inn. Where we are too busy, God brings peace; where we are lost, salvation; where we are sad, joy; where we are bitter, God gives us courage to love again. Rejoice, Christ has come to us bringing us all these gifts of God. In Christ, we are forgiven!

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Shell and Mary Dula

We light the Advent wreath again tonight as we remember. The first Advent candle is one of Hope, and we begin the wait. This candle reminds us that the prophet Isaiah was longing for God's presence, too. It reminds us that the people in the early church were also longing for God's presence. This candle is a symbol for our own longing for God to be with us. We wait in hope for God to surprise us and break into our lives.

The second candle is one of Peace and reminds us of our dreams for peace in the world and that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, is coming. This candle is a symbol of God's promise of peace, comfort, and strength. The third candle is for Joy and to remind us that God wants us to rejoice, even when that feels hard to do. This candle is a symbol of the joy that comes when God is with us. The fourth candle is one of Love and the circle is complete. It is a love that has no ending, that lives on in young and old, not just at Christmas, but throughout the year.

All: Our time of waiting is almost over. May we as people of God proclaim God's greatness. May we see God in those who are weak, humble, poor, hungry, who come to God empty-handed and expect to be fed. May we pray for the Light of the World to shine into our lives, and then through our lives, into the darkness of the world. May the Word indeed become flesh and dwell among us. Amen.

Advent Candle Hymn	<i>A Candle Is Burning</i>	(See Page 4)
Gospel Lesson	Luke 2: 1-7	Reverend Terry C. Martin
Solo	<i>Breath of Heaven</i> Martha Moore, alto and Joyce Nickles, piano	Amy Grant / Chris Eaton
Gospel Lesson	Luke 2:8-20	Reverend Terry C. Martin
Anthem	<i>Before the Marvel of This Night</i> Chancel Choir	Carl Schalk
Sermon	"Hearing the Christmas Message"	Reverend Terry C. Martin

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God of light, in whom there is no shadow, your gifts to us are from the very beginning of time.

They began with creation, when your Spirit gave form to the chaos of energy and matter, and when your Word brought forth light on the face of the earth.

They continued with our ancient ancestors, like Noah, whom you blessed with the colorful promise of the rainbow.

And like Sarah and Abraham, whom you blessed with a child whose descendants, as many as the stars of the sky, were to be a light to the nations.

In the desert, you gave the gifts of manna and of living water to the weary pilgrims whom you led by a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

At last, you sent your light into the world in the form of a tiny child, fragile and vulnerable, who grew to be the very Light of Light, full of grace and truth, revealing your glory on earth.

As your Word became flesh, born of 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, and 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.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts, that in the breaking of this bread and the drinking of this wine, we may know the presence of the living Christ and be renewed as the body of Christ for the world, redeemed by Christ's blood, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at your table for ever.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Giving of the Bread and Cup

(All are welcome to share in communion served by intinction. Please come forward using the center aisle as directed by the ushers. There will be two serving stations. Please return to your seat using the side aisles.)

Communion Music

Sheep May Safely Graze
Rhonda McGinnis, flute and Joyce Nickles, organ

J. S. Bach

Carol Medley

arr. Joyce Nickles

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

The Reverend Terry C. Martin

*Carol

Silent Night

Stille Nacht

1. 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.
2. Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!
3. 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!
4. Silent night, holy night,
wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

*Benediction

*Postlude

**Please stand if you are able*

Nursery Provided for Children Age Three and Under

Acolytes:

Hampton Warner and Olivia Rowland

Crucifer: Herin Warner

Communion Servers and Candlelighters:

Mary Alexander, Reverend Terry Martin, MaryAshlynn Perkey, Mark Robirds,
Colby Tharpe, and Charlie and Ann West

A Candle is Burning

Sandra Dean (alt.)

James Murray

A musical score for the song 'A Candle is Burning'. The score is written on a single treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a time signature of 3/4. The lyrics are written below the staff, with some lines indented to align with the notes. The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 3, 6, 9, and 12 indicated at the start of their respective lines. The lyrics describe a candle burning in a dark winter night, symbolizing hope and the birth of Jesus.

A can - dle is burn - ing, a
A can - dle is burn - ing a
A can - dle is burn - ing a
A can - dle is burn - ing a

3
flame warm and bright, a can - dle of
can - dle of peace, a can - dle to
can - dle of joy, a can - dle to
6
can - dle of love, a can - dle to

9
hope in a dark win - ter night. While
sig - nal that con - flict must cease; for
wel - come brave Ma - ry's new boy. Our
point us to hea - ven a - bove. A

12
an - gels sing bles - sing from heav'n's star - ry
Je - sus is com - ing to show us the
hearts fill with won - der, and eyes light and
ba - by for Christ - mas a won - der - ful

15
sky, our hearts we pre - pare now for
way; a mes - sage of peace hum - bly
glow as joy brigh - tens win - ter like
birth. for Je - sus is bring - ing God's

Je - sus is nigh.
laid in the hay.
sun - shine on snow.
love to our earth.