**December 24, 2020**

**Prelude**

**Opening Hymn:** # 59 Joy to the World

**Call to Worship**

Jesus Christ is born this night!

**Hallelujah! Praise be to God!**

Come to the manger, see the baby!

**Glory to God in the Highest!**

Your Prince of Peace is here, ready to show you the Way.

**Peace can come to all people on the Earth!**

**Opening Prayer**

Let us pray.

We have been waiting and preparing and praying:

**Come, Lord Jesus, friend and saviour, come. Amen.**

It is different in many ways this year for us all.

**And yet.. Jesus is still born this night!**

In our homes and in our hearts, our prayer remains the same:

**Lord Jesus, friend and saviour, you have come, Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**ADVENT Candle lighting**

**Hymn**: #69 VU **Away in a Manger**

In this season of Advent:

**we welcome the coming of Jesus as God’s gift.**

Four candles have lit our path to this moment:

**candles of hope, peace, joy** **and love.**

As the Christ Candle is lit,

**we welcome the Jesus into our midst.**

Take the hope, peace, joy and love of God, revealed in

Bethlehem’s child, and use it to help transform the

world with holy welcome.

**May we welcome all as we welcome Jesus.**

*The Christ Candle is lit!*

SOLO Ron Thompson

**LUKE 2: 1-20**

### The Birth of Jesus

**2**In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2**This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3**All went to their own towns to be registered. **4**Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. **5**He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. **6**While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. **7**And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

### The Shepherds and the Angels

**8**In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9**Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10**But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: **11**to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. **12**This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” **13**And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

**14**“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
    and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

**Singing: *Hark the Herald V***U 48

PART TWO OF READING

**15**When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” **16**So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. **17**When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; **18**and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. **19**But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. **20**The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**Sermon**

**Giving Our Offerings:**

**Offering Prayer:**

Gracious God, with thanks and praise, we joyfully bring this Christmas offering.

**We ask that these gifts be used to bring joy and love to the world.**

We ask this in the name of the Jesus, born this very night!

**The one you sent to bring us joy and love, Amen.**

**Prayer of the People**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Our Parent in heaven,**

**Hallowed be your name,**

**Your kingdom come, Your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**As we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**And deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,**

**Now and for ever. Amen.**

**Singing:** *#67 Silent Night*

**Sending Out**

On a starry night, a gift – a babe.

**Angles that sing, shepherds that gather, Parents that cuddle.**

And a love that is beyond our imagining is born!

**May that love radiate from us as well, long into this wonderous night!**