

**Christmas Eve December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Congregational responses in bold.

\*Indicates Standing

**We Come Together**

**Prelude...** *(this is an opportunity for us to appreciate the gift of music and prepare our hearts for worship)*

**Introit** "My Heart Wanders to Jesus" **Charlie Munroe**

**Welcome/Land Acknowledgement:**

**Call to Worship:**

One: The Word is with us,

**All: thanks be to God.**

One: The Light has come among us,

**All: thanks be to God.**

One: Mary holds her precious infant,

**All: thanks be to God.**

One: Shepherds are first to witness the birth,

**All: thanks be to God.**

One: The Christ child is born among us and for us,

**All: thanks be to God.**

One: God is here, and we are here,

**All: with all our hearts, we worship!**

\***Hymn:** "A Candle Is Burning" **VU#6**  
*(Lighting the Christ Candle)*

**Opening Prayer** *(unison)*

**Holy One, on the night of Jesus' birth, choirs of angels sang to Your glory. As we worship this evening, our hearts sing in joy, and our spirits rejoice as the Light of all lights enters the world. Like the shepherds, we come in awe of Your grace, poured out for all this night. Here this evening as we gather around Your manger, may our worship still us, comfort us, and draw us into the warmth of Your eternal love. In the tender name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

\***Hymn:** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" **VU#60**

## **We Listen to the Word**

### **Prayer for Understanding:**

**Reader: Joe Avery**

Emmanuel, this evening our hearts long to encounter You anew. As we prepare to hear this ancient story once again, awaken something new within us—the warmth of Your Word, the awe of Your presence, and the peace this night brings. We are listening; we give thanks. **Amen.**

### **Scripture Reading:**

**Scripture:** Luke 1: 26-38

**Hymn:** "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" vs 1 & 4

**VU#44**

**Scripture:** Luke 2: 1-7

**Hymn:** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" vs 1 & 4

**VU#64**

**Scripture:** Luke 2: 8-20

**Hymn:** "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"  
vs 1,3 & 6

**VU#75**

**Sermon** "Love Knows Your Name"

**Anthem** "All on a Silent Night"

### **Pastoral Prayer**

**\*Hymn:** "Away in a Manger"

**VU#69**

## **We Respond to the Word**

### **\*Invitation to the Offering**

This evening Jesus is born to us again in a stable, a place of hardship and simplicity. Though born into a manger with seemingly little, he spent his life seeking out the lost and lonely offering them the fullness of life that God hopes and wishes we would all experience. This evening, we give of our hearts and hands in the hope of embodying the love that Jesus so freely offered. Our evening offering will now be received.

**\*Sung Dedication:** "We Give Thee but Thine Own" **VU#543 v. 1**

**\*Offertory Prayer** (unison)

**Loving God, here at Jesus' manger, amidst Your gifts of hope, peace, joy, love, and Light, we offer our gifts and hearts to You. May Your light reach into the shadows of our world, welcoming all who dwell in darkness, transforming sorrow into joy and despair into hope. May all find welcome and peace in the stillness of Your presence as we gather at Your manger. Amen.**

**Blessing:**

As we ready ourselves to move from this space, may the light of Jesus' birth go with you and enfold you in stillness, peace, and joy, as a gentle flame burning brightly within your hearts.

**\*Hymn:** "Silent Night, Holy Night"

**VU# 67**

*As we part this evening the Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, and Christ continue to burn brightly dispelling the darkness around them and warmly welcoming us home.*

**Postlude**



***Merry Christmas!***