



December 24, 2020
GATHERING TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Larry Baumgartner

WELCOME

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Reader: As we light the Christ candle,

People: we watch for the Christmas story around us.

Reader: Emmanuel has come and is coming.

People: Come, all ye faithful, and worship God.

Reader: We ask God to keep us faithful in hope, prayerful for peace, waiting in joy and watchful in love, so that we may stand with confidence and proclaim to the world our great joy: Christ the Savior is born!

In faith we light again the Advent candles, proclaiming the coming light of Christ. *Light the purple and pink candles.*

We light the Christ Candle to celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus, God's promise fulfilled. *Light the center Christ candle.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light,

People: for a child has been born for us, a son given to us!

Leader: Glory to God in the highest heaven!

People: Let us worship the Prince of Peace.

Leader: Lord Jesus, you are our light and our salvation.

People: Let us walk in the light of the Lord!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Living God, on this holy night we stand with the shepherds, amazed at your glory; we sing with the angels, rejoicing in your work; we wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise; and we sit with Mary, cradling your love. May the good news of this night inspire us to tell the world of our great joy: for to us is born a

Savior, the Messiah, the Lord. Glory and praise to you forever!
Amen.

HYMN

"Joy to the World"

Hymnal 134

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins with boldness, for God's light has come to shine in our darkness and remove the shadow of our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *Spoken and Silent (After the corporate Prayer of Confession, please take a few moments of silence to individually confess our sins to God.)*

Faithful God, you love righteousness and hate wickedness, yet we have not lived lives of integrity and truth; we have failed to honor you. We repent of these faults and turn to you in love. Pardon our offenses and purify our hearts, that our lives may glorify you to the ends of the earth, for the sake of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Sisters and brothers, receive the good news: the light of Christ shines in our darkness, to bring light and life to all. By the gift of Christ, your sins are forgiven.

All: Praise God for our victory in Christ!

TELLING THE CHRISTMAS STORY

ANTHEM

"Away In a Manger"

Chime Choir

Luke 2:1-7

HYMN

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child" Hymnal 146

Luke 2:8-14

ANTHEM

"O Holy Night"

Chime Choir

Luke 2:15-20

HYMN

"Go Tell It On the Mountain" Hymnal 136

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:2-7

John 11-14

Titus 2:1-11

SERMON

Where We Belong ~ Finally Home

Rev. Piper Cartland

HYMN

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing” Hymnal **119**

RESPONDING TO THE LIGHT

PASTORAL PRAYER, followed by The Lord’s Prayer (we say *sin*)

OFFERING

CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN

“Silent Night” Hymnal **144**

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION