

Christmas Eve 2022 Order of Service

Prelude

Welcome and Prayer----- Dan Harper

O Come all ye Faithful

First Lesson: God announces in the Garden that the seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head. Genesis 3:8-15 Tom Canaday

Of the Father's Love Begotten Dan Harper
Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Second Lesson: God's Promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed. Genesis 22:15-18 Valeri Harper

The God of Abraham Praise

Third Lesson: Christ's Birth and Kingdom are foretold by Isaiah
Isaiah 11:1-5 Dan Harper

Lo How A Rose E'er Blooming

Fourth Lesson- The Prophet Micah foretells the glory of Little Bethlehem
Micah 5:2-5a Tom Canaday

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Fifth Lesson: The Angel Gabriel salutes the Virgin Mary
Luke 1:26-38 Cindy Blackstone

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Sixth Lesson: Luke tells of the birth of Jesus
Luke 2:1-7 Abraham Lee

Away In a Manger

Seventh Lesson: The Shepherds go to the Manger
Luke 2:8-20 Carol Mowbray

Hark the Herald Angels Sing
O Holy Night

Eighth Lesson: The Wise Men are led by the star to Jesus
Matthew 2:1-12 Craig Blackstone

Thou Who was Rich beyond Splendor

Ninth Lesson: John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation
John 1:1-14 Emmanuel: God with us Pastor John Lloyd Homily

Lighting of Candles

Silent Night

Christmas Eve Service Emmanuel: God is With Us Selected Scriptures December 24, 2022 Pastor John Lloyd

As we enter into this advent season, our hearts can be filled with concerns for so many things. Our world is filled with both wonderful and terrible events each day. The holidays add even more weight to all that we may be experiencing. Advent is a time to purposefully slow down and let our hearts appreciate and enjoy time with our Lord Jesus Christ. It's a time to both remember Jesus first coming but also to welcome His presence into our lives right now. We will purpose to reflect on Jesus and what the impact of his first advent. We will also look forward to what His presence means to us going forward both in this life and the next. His presence makes the difference!

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light but came to bear witness about the light. 9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Big Idea: Jesus became like us so that we could become like Him.
His Presence Makes the Difference!

Jesus is the Son of God who brings _____ and _____ in darkness.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

Where he would be born:

Micah 5:2 But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. (Matthew 2:6)

How he would come:

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (Mt. 1:23)

There are three ideas in "Immanuel": He is God, he is human, and he is with us. Timothy Keller *Hidden Christmas*

His bloodline:

Isaiah 11:1 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.² And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

His Mission:

John 1:5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

John 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

The Son of Man became a man to enable men to become sons of God. C.S. Lewis

"Despite our efforts to keep him out, God intrudes. The life of Jesus is bracketed by two impossibilities: a virgin's womb and an empty tomb. Jesus entered our world through a door marked 'No Entrance' and left through a door marked 'No Exit.'" -Peter Larson, Prism (Jan/Feb 2001)

His Presence Makes the Difference!

II. Jesus, our Emmanuel was born to die so that we might have _____

John 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

John 10:11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

John 10:28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

John 1:12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

His Presence Makes the Difference!

III. Jesus became human so we could experience the _____ of _____ forever.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. Within the name of Jesus (Emmanuel) in and of itself, is embedded the idea that with the dawn of the New Testament, God will dwell among His people corporately instead of dwelling in the physical temple of the Old Testament.

"YOU (plural) are the temple of the Living God.." (2 Cor 6:16).

Jesus is the ultimate manifest presence of God: "God was manifested in the flesh..." (1 Timothy 3:16).

Before He left the disciples to go to the cross, He told them, "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you." (John 14:18)

Jesus was telling the disciples that they were orphans without His presence. So are we. We need His Presence more than ever before!

"Our hope of life after death is Christ's life and death. We can remind those who grieve that the God who collects their tears in His bottle has already drawn near to them in Christ and will continue to be present with them in their time of need." Tim Challies (We grieve with Hope: 1 Thessalonians 4:13)

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

"There has never been a gift offered that makes you swallow your pride to the depths that the gift of Jesus Christ requires us to do. Christmas means that we are so lost, so unable to save ourselves, that nothing less than the death of the Son of God himself could save us. That means you are not somebody who can pull yourself together and live a moral and good life. To accept the true Christmas gift, you have to admit you're a sinner. You need to be saved by grace. You need to give up control of your life." Keller Hidden Christmas

Jesus, I want to respond to you at every turn.

Help me to be like the Shepherds

hearing your special revelation

Running to see and to tell

Help me to be like the Wise Kings

Searching for signs in the dark.

Thank you for receiving me when I come to you

Whether my hands are full or empty.

His Presence Makes the Difference!