

## WE GATHER IN CHRIST'S NAME

**GATHERING MUSIC**      *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*      Arr. Dan Miller

**WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND CENTERING SILENCE**      The Rev. Dr. James Butler

**CHRISTMASTIDE INTROIT** (Hymn 143, v. 1)

*Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth.*

*You, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth.*

*Come and worship! Come and worship! Worship Christ, the newborn king.*

**\* OPENING RESPONSES**

Kathy Sands

Unto us was born in the city of David, a savior—Christ the Lord.

The Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth.

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to God's people on earth.

**\* HYMN 119**

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

MENDELSSOHN

**\* ACCLAMATION AND PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Beloved in Christ: God is with us!

**We are not alone!**

**CALL TO CONFESSION AND SILENT REFLECTION**

**UNISON CONFESSION**

**God of grace: In the midst of celebration, feasting, gift-giving, and the wonder of your incarnation in Jesus, the Christ Child, we confess our imperfection and shortcomings.**

**For those thoughts, words, and deeds that we regret, we ask your forgiveness. As the**

**new year dawns, grant us the resolve to begin again, forgiven and set free; through**

**Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

## WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

**FIRST LESSON**      Galatians 4:1-7      (Pew Bible, N.T. p.189)

**SOLO**

*Gesu Bambino*

Pietro Yon/arr. Mark Hayes

Jason Fuh, baritone

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows upon a winter night. Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose, the King of Love and Light. The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced. And at His blessed birth the stars their exultation voiced. O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord. Again, the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night. That gave the world its Christmas Rose, its King of Love and Light. Let every voice acclaim His name, the graceful. He came that we with Him might dwell. O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

**\* GOSPEL LESSON**

Luke 2:39-52

(Pew Bible, N.T. p.59)

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**HYMN 124**

"Still, Still, Still"

STILL, STILL, STILL

**SERMON**

"Christmas Nobodies"

Dr. Butler

"...they returned to Galilee and the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom"

## WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

**\* HYMN** (see insert)

"The Hands that First Held Mary's Child"

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven: hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**OFFERTORY**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Arr. Wilbur Held

\* **DOXOLOGY** (Hymn 606)

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

\* **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

## **WE GO FORTH TO SERVE**

\* **HYMN 136**                      “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”                      GO TELL IT

\* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

\* **DEPARTING MUSIC**                      *Prélude*                      Johann Sebastian Bach

BWV 556

*The people are welcome to depart or remain seated while the Departing Music is played.*



### **Our Mission**

To extend the gracious welcome of God in Jesus Christ through worship,  
service and spiritual growth in a supportive community of faith.

### **Staff**

The Rev. Dr. James Butler, Pastor  
The Revs. Dr. Steve and Dr. Cinda Gorman, Parish Associates  
Dr. Kaori Hongo, Minister of Music  
Aliyah Kennedy, Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry  
Sara Gresh, Secretary and Financial Secretary  
Kimberly Hook, Childcare Provider and Evening Receptionist  
Carolyn Fordosi, Housekeeper  
Scott Schreibman, Maintenance Custodian  
Margaret Limkemann, Minister of Music Emerita

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## **SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**

Christmastide

December 29, 2024

10 a.m.

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