

CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION SERVICE
December 24, 2006

Prelude and Acolyte

Welcome and Announcements

* Greeting and Rites of Friendship

Meditation in Silence, Preparing our hearts for Worship

Lighting of the Christ Candle David and Lisa Nelms

Leader: On this Christmas Eve we join Christians around the world who today give thanks for God's presence in our lives. God's gift of a child born twenty centuries ago transforms our lives. We join with the heavenly host proclaiming Glory to God in the highest. And peace and goodwill to all God's people.

We light this Christ candle in gratitude for God's infinite mercy. God brings us together in fellowship and communion

Light the white candle of Christ

All: *God of love and mercy, we give thanks for your presence and for the gift of salvation through this infant Jesus. Help us to reach out and serve others as You have reached out to us. May we extend the knowledge of grace and presence that others may come to know and accept the blessings offered to us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

* Hymn No. 182 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Prayer

Sharing of the Scriptures from the Gospels of Luke and Matthew

Sermon "The Story Unfolds" Rev. Lisa Nance

HOLY COMMUNION

* Communion Hymn # 218: Go, Tell I on the Mountain

Invitation to the Table

Prayer

Communion of God's People

Lighting of the Candles

* Hymn No. 186 "Silent Night! Holy Night!"

* Benediction

* Hymn No. 179 "Joy to the World!"

Silent Night! Holy Night!

Verse 1

Silent night! holy night! All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child; holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Verse 2

Silent night! holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ the Savior, is born! Christ the Savior, is born!

Verse 3

Silent night! holy night! Son of God, love's pure light,
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at they birth.

Joy to the World!

Verse 1

Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Verse 2

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns; let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Verse 3

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

Verse 4

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.