



*Reaching Out with Nurturing Love to All God's People*



Nativity by He Qi

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**December 24, 2015**

**CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP 7:00 PM**

*All are invited to cookies and cocoa after the service.  
First time here? We are happy to have you visit with us tonight.  
Assistance needed? Feel free to ask. Large print bulletins and  
hearing devices are available from the ushers.*

## **CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP**

*\*One asterisk signifies the congregation stands if able.  
Throughout the service the **bold type** is spoken by the congregation.*

**Prelude**                    *“O Come Emmanuel”*                    Lara Garner, harpist

**Welcome** *(Please sign our red registration books in the pews.)*

**Advent Wreath Lighting of the Christ Candle** – *(responsively)*

Reader 1: We watched, we waited, in hope for peace, in joy, with love!

Reader 2: On a night like tonight, our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace was born in a manger!  
God’s greatest gift to the world! *(light the Christ candle)*

**All:**        **Once we walked in darkness. Now we have seen a great  
light! May that light illuminate our hearts and shine in our  
words and deeds. May the hope, the peace, the joy, and the  
love represented by the birth in Bethlehem this night fill our  
lives and become part of all that we say and do. May we  
share the divine life of your son Jesus Christ, grateful that  
you humbled yourself to share our humanity. Amen.**

### **\*Call to Worship**

Leader: They have heard it announced on the hills, they have seen the  
star in the sky.

**People:** **Some are looking up the prophecy, some are studying the  
skies, but none deny the special birth.**

Leader: Some are dancing back to sheepfolds, some await more  
information, others celebrate the news!

**People:** **In a foreign place, in a chilly place, in a busy unexpected  
place, a young couple copes with their newborn child.**

**Leader:** At what seems the wrong time, in what seems the wrong place, among those who seem to be the wrong people, God has decided to bless, to disturb, and to come to us with love.

**All:** **Let us worship God!**

<b>Carol</b>	<i>O Come All Ye Faithful</i>	Hymn #133
<b>Christmas Poem</b>	<i>Amazing Peace</i>	<i>Maya Angelou</i>
<b>Scripture</b>	<i>The Prophecy</i>	Isaiah 9:2-7
<b>Carol</b>	<i>What Child is This?</i>	Hymn# 145
<b>Reflection</b>	<i>The Christmas Spirit</i>	<i>Ann Weems</i>
<b>Carol</b>	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	vs. 1, 3 Hymn #121
<b>Scripture</b>	<i>The Night of Wonder</i>	Luke 2:1-7
<b>Special music</b>		Lara Garner
<b>Reflection</b>	<b>“God’s Love Cry”</b>	<b>Jane Cocke Perdue</b>
<b>Carol</b>	<i>Away in a Manger</i>	Hymn # 115
<b>Children’s Time Reading and Singing</b>		Pastor Cindy
<i>When the Chimes Rang</i>		<i>Raymond MacDonald Alden</i>
<b>Carols</b>		
<i>Go, Tell It on the Mountain</i>	vs.1	Hymn # 136
<i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>	vs.1	Hymn # 119
<b>Scripture</b>	<i>The Shepherds and the Baby Jesus</i>	Luke 2:8-20
<b>Carol</b>	<i>The First Nowell</i>	vs. 1, 5 Hymn # 147
<b>Call to Offering</b>		
<b>Offertory</b>	<i>We Three Kings</i>	Lara Garner, <i>harpist</i>
	<i>(Your offering will be used toward the ministry and life of this congregation)</i>	
<b>Prayer of Dedication</b>		

**Christmas Prayer** (*in unison*):

**Loving God, help us do what our role models of faith showed us long ago. May we do what Mary did and trust in you; what Joseph did and courageously ignore scorn to accomplish your will; what the Wise Men did and go to worship you with joy. And help us always do as the shepherds did - stop the busyness of life in order to praise and glorify you with special thanks for all our many blessings as we pray the prayer you taught us to pray, saying: (*The Lord's Prayer*). Amen**

**\*The Giving of the Light**

John 1:1-5

*(Please form a large circle around the sanctuary and hold your candle straight up as the light from the Christ Candle is passed to you. After **Joy to the World** is sung, please extinguish your candle before moving and place in basket as you exit.)*

**\*Carols**

*Silent Night, Holy Night  
Joy to the World*

Hymn #122

Hymn #134

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Joy to the World*

Lara Garner, *harpist*

*Liturgist: Linda Burille*



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