



Candle Lighting Service - Christmas Eve 2022

Opening Carol: #188 “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

We welcome you O Christ, Light of the World, in the Name of the Father, The Son+ and the Holy Spirit. Open our hearts and minds to worship you in spirit and in truth. Pr. Tom Bryant

Call to Worship – Psalm 110.1-4

Lighting the Advent Wreath

The Everetts

Reader: Emmanuel, God with us, a promise kept, a child. By definition, a baby is dependent on adults for everything—food, shelter, protection, and love. A baby is unable to use logic and reason. It needs constant attention. But the baby Jesus—this child created the world. This child existed before anything or anyone.

Congregation: This child was a King. A King in a stable, wrapped in rags—but a King nonetheless.

Reader: This child would bring hope. Not just a wish, but the confidence that God would defeat Satan, that good would win over evil. (Light the 1st Advent Candle)

Reader: This child would bring peace, even in the midst of great suffering and trials—a peace that assures his followers that he is in control even when it feels like nobody is. (Light the 2nd Advent Candle)

Reader: This child would bring love—a love that would never be taken away, a love that is beyond our understanding. (Light the 3rd Advent Candle)

Reader: And this child would bring joy, for he would deliver us. (Light the 4th Advent Candle)

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Sarah Dietrich

First Lection: Isaiah 7.10-14

Trisha Williams

The Dietrich's

Reader 1: This is the long night, this is the dark night when those who listen await his cry.

Reader 2: This is the eve of the great nativity when those who are longing await his appearing.

Congregation: Wait, with watchful heart.

Reader 1: Listen; hear the song of angels glorious. E're long it will be heard that his foot has reached the earth New! That the King of glory is come!

Congregation: Sweet little Jesus, King of Glory!

Reader 2: This night is born, Jesus, Son of the King of glory. This night is born to us the hope of peace.

Congregation: Sweet little, Jesus, Prince of Peace!

Reader 1: This night gleamed sea and shore together. This night was born Christ, the King of greatness.

Congregation: Hail to the King, Blessed is he!

Reader 2: Surely the light of the world has come, and unspeakable joy fills this place.

Congregation: In me, Lord Jesus, let there be joy!

The New Testament Reading: I John 4. 7-16

Sherry Bryant

Giving of Our Offering

Doxology

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 1.18-25

Jen Reynolds

Christ Candle Lit

“Mary Did You Know”

Jon Williams

Christmas Homily “The Most Unlikely Character”

Pr. Tom

Communion

“Silent Night” (lighting of the candles)

Benediction

Pr. Tom Bryant