

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2017



...to the Manger

Crafts, snacks and caroling – 3pm
Worship – 4pm



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Gathering

Music to Prepare Us for Worship

Gathering Songs

O Come, All Ye Faithful
The First Noel

Welcome, Worship 101, Bells, Connection Cards

No Longer Strangers Prayer

Blessed be God the Word, who came to his own and his own people did not accept him. It is in this way God glorifies the stranger.

O God, show us your image in all who we meet, especially those we call stranger or other. Show us that when we welcome them, we welcome you. Amen

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the community of the Holy Spirit is with you all.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray: God of miracles, **on this holy night, we look for hope born in a vulnerable baby. Come into our lives at our most vulnerable and show us what a life in you looks like. It is the thrill of hope that we sing about tonight, that we believe in, that comes to us freely given. What a miracle. Amen.**

The Story

Come to the Stage & Tell The Story!

An Angel Comes To Visit Mary - based on Luke 1:26-38

Angels We Have Heard on High

Come to Bethlehem to be Counted– based on Luke 2:1-14

Away in a Manger

Shepherds Come to the Manger – based on Luke 2:15-20

Rise Up Shepherds and Follow

Come to the Manger

Joy to the World

Sermon

The Feast

Offering

All that we have and all that we are comes from God. Let us give back to God in a spirit of generosity. There will be enough. Please put your offering of gratitude to God in the plate as it passes by. Prayerfully consider giving a consistent financial gift to River of Hope so our community cannot just survive but thrive.

Music during Offering

The watering can is to collect offering for Laundry Love. Any money you place in the offering plates as they are passed will be received by River of Hope to further the ministry of getting the church out of the building and into the community.

Kids are invited to help set the table. Meet Pastor Laura at the back of the worship space to help bring the gifts of bread and wine to the table.

Setting the Table

*As the kids help set the table, they make a circle around the table and lead the congregation in the table prayer written by Martin Luther: Let's pray: **Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest. And let these gifts to us be blest. Blest be God who is our bread, may all the world be clothed and fed. Amen.***

Thanksgiving at the Table

The Lord is with you

And also with you

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise

Words to Bless the Feast

On the night in which he was betrayed...

O God, our hope, our life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast.

Grace our table with your presence. Come, Holy Spirit, Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

You are invited to join hands with those around you in prayer. If you are not the hand-holding type, then simply fold your hands in front of you or hang onto this bulletin as you pray.

Our Father...

Invitation to the Meal

You are welcome to this meal. If you hunger and thirst for grace and mercy that comes through Jesus Christ, then Christ has set this table just for you. Bring all that you are and all that you have to the table. You will be fed. You are forgiven. There is enough.

On the night we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we also remember his death and resurrection. This is how love comes to us.

Communion Songs

O Little Town of Bethlehem
I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve
Angels from the Realms of Glory

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray.

Loving God, thank you for the gift of grace received at this table. Send your Spirit of truth to direct our steps, to guide our hearts, and to live a life of following Jesus for the sake of the world. Draw us near to you through your body and blood, through your presence in this world here and now. Amen.

The Sending

Silent Night

Ushers will come forward and light their candles off the pastor's candle and then proceed down the aisles. Please hold the lit candle upright and dip the unlit candle into the flame.

Blessing

As you go on your way, may God go with you.
May God go before you to show you the way.
May God go behind you to encourage you,
beside you to befriend you,
above you to watch over,
within you to give you peace.
In the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit.

Sending Song

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Go in peace – serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Music to Send You Out