

Christmas Eve Worship
December 24, 2021 ~ 4:30 p.m.

GATHERING

The Prelude

Oh, Come, Little Children

German carol,
setting by Michael Burkhardt

On Christmas Night

English carol,
arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams
setting by Michael Burkhardt

The Welcome

The Call to Worship

Leader 1: A light shining in the darkness . . .

Leader 2: What could it be?

Leader 1: The sound of angels' wings . . .

Leader 2: What could it mean?

Leader 1: A Baby born in a stable . . .

Leader 2: Who could it be?

Leader 1: Come to Bethlehem and see.

*The Carol

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES,
John F. Wade

WAITING AND LONGING

Lighting the Advent Candles

Leader 1: Advent is a time of waiting. Our wait is almost over!

Leader 2: We light the candle of HOPE and remember that our only hope is in Jesus.

Leader 1: We light the candle of PEACE and remember the birth of Christ is the birth of peace.

Leader 2: We light the candle of JOY as our hearts sing for joy to the Lord of our salvation.

Leader 1: We light the candle of LOVE and know that God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son.

Leader 2: Love comes with Jesus' birth.

*The Carol

The First Noel

English carol, arr. John Stainer

WE HEAR GOD'S PROMISES

Invitation to Children

The Story of Jesus' Birth

based on Luke 2:1-20

*The Carol

Away in a Manger

John McFarland,
James R. Murray

The Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

The Meditation

“Light in the Darkness”

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

We light the Christ candle to tell us that Jesus is born. Tomorrow is Christmas, a day of gifts and love and laughter. We do all this because of the baby Jesus, the greatest gift of all. Let us walk together in HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE and let the light of Christ shine through us all!

The Prayer

*The Carol

Silent Night

Joseph Mohr, tr. John Young
STILLE NACHT FranzGruber

The Litany

Leader: In a little town, known for nothing much, God's holy Child was born

People: Welcome the Light!

Leader: By the faint light of the moon, Mary and Joseph found their way

People: Welcome the Light!

Leader: In a stable, Mary gave birth to Jesus, called God-With-Us

People: Welcome the Light!

Leader: Angels sang, “Glory to God in the Highest”

People: Welcome the Light!

Leader: Shepherds left their sheep to see.

People: Welcome the Light!

Leader: Wise men from the East followed God's shining sign.

People: Welcome the Light!

Leader: And on this Christmas night, with joy, we greet the Child.

People: Welcome the Light!

WE GO OUT TO SHARE THE LIGHT

*The Carol

Joy to the World

Isaac Watts, ANTIOCH,
Lowell Mason, G.F. Handel

*The Benediction

*The Postlude

God Rest Ye Merry

English carol, arr. Wilbur Held

*All who are able, please stand

Worship Leaders: Preaching – Jeff Watson; Liturgist – Pastor Bud Pratt; Organist – Patty Pratt

Welcome to our Christmas Eve Celebration! It is a privilege to share this time of worship with you. We hope you have been blessed through this celebration and we pray that you have encountered the love of God that seeks, saves, reaches, rescues and embraces all who open their hearts to the Babe of Bethlehem; our Savior, Jesus Christ. Merry Christmas from all of us at First Reformed Church!