



Christmas Day

December 25, 2022

* *Please stand if you are able*

Prelude: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

arr. Charlie Miller

Gathering

CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Liturgist: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

All: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

Liturgist: And he will be Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

All: Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

Liturgist: The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

* **All Singing:** 81: "Angels from the Realms of Glory"
Singing verses 1 – 4

* GOD'S GREETING

* GOD'S PEOPLE GREETING ONE ANOTHER

* **All Singing:** 92 "Joy to the World"

Children ages 2–7 may come forward for a brief word and blessing before they leave for “God Loves Me” and “Children in Worship.”

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

Children: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Reconciliation

Liturgist: He did not wait till the world was ready, till men and nations were at peace.
He came when the Heavens were unsteady, and prisoners cried out for release.

All: **He did not wait for the perfect time. He came when the need was deep and great. He dined with sinners in all their grime, turned water into wine.**

Liturgist: He did not wait till hearts were pure. In joy he came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt. To a world like ours, of anguished shame he came, and his Light would not go out.

All: **He came to a world which did not mesh, to heal its tangles, shield its scorn. In the mystery of the Word made Flesh the Maker of the stars was born.**

Liturgist: We cannot wait till the world is sane to raise our songs with joyful voice,
for to share our grief, to touch our pain, He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!
“First Coming” by Madeleine L’Engle from A Cry Like a Bell

Silent Confession and Reflection

Liturgist: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,

All: **that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have life forever.**
John 3:16 adapted

* **All Singing:** **351 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”**

Liturgist: Titus 2:11-14

Proclamation

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All Singing: **98 “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”**

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: How It Happened

* **All Singing:** **88 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”**

Dedication

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING

1. General Fund
2. Bethshan Association

OFFERTORY “The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy”

Lloyd Larson

* **All Singing: 81 “Angels from the Realms of Glory”**
Singing verse 5

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!**

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Sending

* BENEDICTION

* **All Singing: 80 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”**

Postlude: “Hymn of Rejoicing”
Mine eyes have seen thy salvation.

J.S. Bach
arr. Van Denman Thompson

Worship Leaders

Organist / Pianist: Dora Diephouse
Vocalist: Ginny Carpenter
Trumpeter: Don Kosmal
Minister: Roger Nelson

Liturgist: Mary Post
Prayer: Dan Diephouse

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