

**Christmas Eve, December 24, 2009**  
Minister: Rev. Angela Cory, BA M.Div  
Director of Music: Ann McAllister, B. Mus, B.Ed

Congregational Responses are in **Bold** print.

**\* Please stand if able.**

*Today's service and bulletin are dedicated in loving memory of Don and Annie Bustin and Lyle and Georgia Crane by Creighton and Veneita Bustin.*

Choir Precession "O, Come All Ye Faithful" #60  
VU vs. 1&3

Call to Worship Celebrating the Light of The World

Solo: "I Wonder As I Wander" Victoria Cory

Scripture: Isaiah 9: 2-6

Hymn: "Once In Royal David's City" #62 VU (choir begins,  
congregation joins in for verses 3-4)

Lighting of the Advent Candles—Christ Candle

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**O God of wonder in ordinary places, we wonder if we might  
have missed your coming, had we been there, with the stable  
too out of the way, the cradle too makeshift, the animals too**

**noisy, the shepherds too crude, the carpenter too rough, the mother too young, the night too dark and cold. We confess our preference for trumpets and hallelujah choirs, for cherub-cheeked children, for gift exchanges, and shopping day countdowns. Forgive us for not seeing you in out-of-the-way places and in unlikely people. In this season of darkness and light, hold us close. Amen**

Children's Hymn "Go Tell It On The Mountain" #43 VU vs. 1,2

Theme Conversation "Suzie's Christmas Story"

Children's Hymn "Go Tell It On The Mountain" #43 VU vs. 3

Scripture: Luke 2: 1-7

Hymn: "While Shepherd's Watched" vs. 1-4

Scripture: Luke 2: 8-14

Hymn: "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

Scripture: Luke 2: 15-20

Anthem "Sleep, Holy Babe" by L. Smith

Monologue: "The Innkeeper's Daughter"

Offertory Invitation

One: In response to your love of a Holy Child born in Bethlehem, let us offer our gifts as we receive our offering.

Receiving our Offerings and Par Cards

Offertory Hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem" #64 VU

Dedication of Offering VU 55 vs 4

"What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb,  
If I were a wise-man, I would do my part, yet  
What I can I give him—give him my heart."

Offertory Prayer (in unison)

**Lead us, O God, by star or angel, by hymn or prayer, by meditation or preaching to the manger of our Saviour. Lead us, with our gifts which have come from you and which we have sometimes used carelessly, that we may lay them at Jesus' feet and go away with wonder, love and praise. Amen**

Solo: Who Would Send A Baby – by M.K. Beall

Wendy Bennett, mezzo soprano

Prayers of Intercession & Thanksgiving

Sing "Away In A Manger" vs 1

Prayer

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
They will be done,  
On earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil;  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
Forever and ever. Amen**

Sing "Away In A Manger" vs. 2-3

Blessing

One: Go now to your homes, receive and celebrate God's love that joins the world through the Child of the manger and the Christ of the cross. Live in the light of that silent night's joy.

**All: May Christ be born in every home, the Spirit's laughter lift every heart. May God's everlasting arms embrace us all in grace and peace. Amen**

Litany of Light (responsively)

*(choir light candles from Christ candle as they process down to congregation)*

**All: What is the meaning of this dark? What is the meaning of this night: What is the silence of this night?**

One: This dark is the way we are—darkness covers the land like gift wrapping. This night is the night that dark was broken...broken down forever. The silence of this night is the silence of us all, holding our breath.

**All: What is the meaning of this holding of breath? What are we waiting for?**

One: We wait for labour, for birth, for the Most High to bend toward the earth. We wait for that first cry, lungs, meeting air for the first time, the spark of life beginning: God's lusty, bellowing, newborn cry. We wait for joy to be real, for incarnation to take place, for God to be in our flesh and see our life from inside our eyes.

**All: What is the meaning of this joy? What is the meaning of this birth? What is the meaning of this life?**

One: This is the joy—God has come to be with us. This is the meaning of this birth—every birth is now holy—God has made it so. This is the meaning of this life; this child of

God's—this child of ours, this Jesus—all the light of God  
shines through him.

**All: Take this: love's pure light.**

One: Christ is born!

*(turn down lights)*

Guitar Solo            "Silent Night"            Andrew Cory

Hymn:            "Silent Night"

*(congregation and choir join in singing all verses)*

**Merry Christmas and Happy  
New Year!**