

God Gathers Us in His Holy Presence

The Words of Preparation

"He, the image of the Father, came and dwelt in our midst, in order that He might renew humankind after Himself and seek out His lost sheep." - Saint Athanasius of Alexandria

The Gathering Music

The Words of Welcome and Call to Worship 1 John 4:9-10

*The Opening Hymn #133 "O Come All Ye Faithful"

*The Christmastide Affirmation of Faith *The Ligonier Statement on Christology*

We confess the mystery and wonder of God made flesh and rejoice in our great salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. With the Father and the Holy Spirit, the Son created all things, sustains all things, and makes all things new. Truly God, He became truly man, two natures in one person. He was born of the Virgin Mary and lived among us. Crucified, dead, and buried, He rose on the third day, ascended to heaven, and will come again in glory and judgment. For us, He kept the Law, atoned for sin, and satisfied God's wrath. He took our filthy rags and gave us His righteous robe. He is our Prophet, Priest, and King, building His church, interceding for us, and reigning over all things. Jesus Christ is Lord; we praise His holy Name forever. Amen.

The Festival of Lessons and Carols

The First Lesson: The Curse of Sin and the Promise of a Seed

Genesis 3:8-19

The First Carol #88 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (v. 1,2,6,7)

The Second Lesson: Creation Shall Be Restored

Isaiah 11:1-9

The Second Carol #124 "Still, Still, Still"

The Third Lesson: A Ruler Shall Come from Bethlehem

Micah 5:2-5

The Third Carol #121 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

The Fourth Lesson: A Child from God is Promised

Luke 1:26-36, 38

The Fourth Carol #145 "What Child is This?"

The Fifth Lesson: The Christ Child is Born in Bethlehem

Luke 2:1-7

The Fifth Carol #132 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

The Sixth Lesson: The Angel Army Announces the Savior's Birth

Luke 2:8-17

The Sixth Carol #119 "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

The Seventh Lesson: The Eternal Word Comes to Dwell in Flesh and Blood

John 1:1-5, 9-14

The Sermon

The Seventh Carol and the Candlelighting "Silent Night, Holy Night"

Silent night, holy night!

All is calm, all is bright

'round yon virgin mother and child!

Holy Infant, so tender and mild,

sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!

Shepherds quake at the sight;

glories stream from heaven afar,

heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:

Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!"

Silent night, holy night!

Son of God, love's pure light

radiant beams from thy holy face,

with the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

God Sends Us Forth in Love and Light

*The Closing Carol "Joy to the World!"

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her King;

let every heart prepare Him room,

and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!

Let all their songs employ,

while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains

**repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness
and wonders of His love,
and wonders of His love,
and wonders, wonders of His love.**

*The Benediction

*The Postlude