

Nativity Of The Lord - Year B

December 24, 2017

Christmas Eve Communion

Texts: Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

Isaiah 9:2-7 (NRSV)

Call to Worship:

With eyes wide open
and our ears on edge,
**we look for shepherds
and listen for the songs of angels.**

In the light of winter's moon,
with the Southern Cross lighting the way,
**we gather outside the door of a mystery,
wondering if we dare go enter.**

With folks and friends we love,
with strangers we have just met,
**we gather, becoming the holy family
for this time and in this place.**

Christmas Eve Prayer

Titus 2:11-14 (NRSV)

Call to Reconciliation

Unison Prayer for Forgiveness:

**This was going to be the year when we were going to give away more
than we spent.
This was going to be the season when we spent more time with others.
This was going to be the Christmas when we wrote personal letters to
friends and family.**

This was going to be a truly holy season.

Forgive us and draw us closer

**to the Baby born not into wealth and power,
but into poverty and weakness;
to the One who loves unconditionally and welcomes all;
to the Child who gathers other children to him,
to bless them and serve them;
to the One who drew near to us,
so we might be drawn to your heart –**

Jesus Christ, our Brother, our Lord.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

Into the valleys of our death, Jesus comes with life;
into the shadows of our world, Jesus brings light;
into the brokenness of our lives, Jesus brings forgiveness and peace.

**Thanks be to God for the gift of the Baby of Bethlehem, who brings
joy and peace to us in these moments of forgiveness and in all the
days to come. Amen.**

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

May the God of silent nights be with you!

May the God of herald angels be with you!

Open your hearts to the One born in the little town of Bethlehem.

May Emmanuel come to abide in our hearts.

Join all believers in singing of our joy this night.

May our voices blend with those of the angels and shepherds.

As we gather,

as we join with voices around us,

we sing praises to you this Christmas night:

We will not be afraid,

for great joy is ours this night;

we will look for the signs of your presence,

**grace swaddled in hope,
love wrapped around broken hearts.
Glory to you, God in the highest heavens!
May peace fill the lives of all your children!**

Luke 2:1-20 (NRSV)

On this night, when we sing of the baby in the manger,
as the shadow of the cross is cast by the stars,
we proclaim that mystery called incarnation:

**Christ is our light,
and we will join the angels in singing the good news;
Christ is our life,
and we will join the disciples in telling the Story;
Christ is our promise,
and we wait for the joy of his return.**

Distribution

Sending

Let us go to be the gift another needs,
**sharing God's blessings of love and grace,
running to tell the Story we heard from the shepherds.**

Let us go to be the comfort which can swaddle others,
**sharing Jesus' compassion with the poor and needy,
welcoming the holiness offered by the most vulnerable we meet.**

Let us go to enkindle the lives around us,
**sharing the Spirit's peace with all the broken,
learning the language of hope from children.**

In Memoriam

The bulletin is given by Bob and Norma,
in memory of our parents: Edna & Clifford and Mary & Harry