For
to us
a child is
born, to us
a son is given.

Isaiah 9:6

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

December 24, 2022 **11:00 PM**

*****If it is comfortable for you to do so, please stand.

PRELUDE *Veni, Emmanuel* *Plainsong, 9th century*
JOHN SINCLAIR, violoncello *arr. Hahn*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory.
People: Oh, come, let us worship Him.
Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
People: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.
Leader: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.
People: We have seen Christ's glory, the glory as of a child, full of grace and truth.
Leader: Unto us a child has been born, unto us a son is given.
People: Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia!

***HYMN #120** *Hark, The Herald Angels Sing* MENDELSSOHN
English, 19th century

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and generous God, The Word made Flesh and Light of the world, we praise and thank You for the joys of this Christmas season. You have called us once more to tell the story of Your coming into the world by the power of love. Thank You for this sacred space, radiant light, Your holy word, and so much music. Now fill us with Your grace, that in all things we may embrace Your will and rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY *What Is This Lovely Fragrance?* H. Willan
CHANCEL CHOIR *(1880 – 1968)*

***DOXOLOGY #515**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts and the giving of this offering all show our thankfulness to You, O God our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.

FIRST LESSON Genesis 1: 26-28, 31a
HYMN #140 *What Child is This?* GREENSLEEVES
English, 19th century

SECOND LESSON Genesis 3: 21-24
CAROL *Adam Lay Ybounden* B. Ord
(1897 – 1961)

THIRD LESSON Isaiah 9: 2-7
HYMN #141 *The First Nowell* THE FIRST NOWELL
English, 16th century

FOURTH LESSON Micah 5: 2-5a
CAROL *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* W ZŁOBIE LEŻY
Polish, 13th century
arr. Willcocks

FIFTH LESSON Luke 2: 1-7
HYMN #128 *In the Bleak Midwinter* CRANHAM
English, 20th century

SIXTH LESSON Luke 2: 8-20
ANTHEM *Cradle Song* G. Near
*(*1942)*

SEVENTH LESSON Matthew 2: 1-12
HYMN #122 *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen* GOD REST YOU MERRY
English, 18th century

EIGHTH LESSON John 1: 1-18
CAROL *The Hands That First Held Mary's Child* D. Forrest
*(*1978)*

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE "A God with Skin" Rev. Dr. Andrew W. Armstrong

CHRISTMAS PRAYER and LORD'S PRAYER (Debts/Debtors)

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

THE SERVICE OF LIGHTS/ LET YOUR LIGHTS SHINE!

Silent Night, Holy Night STILLE NACHT
Austrian, 19th century

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.

CHRISTMAS BENEDICTION

***HYMN #130** *Joy to the World! The Lord is Come* ANTIOCH
English, 18th century

TOWER CHIMES Jim Stone

Officiant:	Rev. Dr. Andrew W. Armstrong
Minister of Music:	Joseph R. Olefirowicz, CAGO
Staff Singers:	Janet Poisson & Tara Goodhue, soprano - Brianne Biastoff, alto
	Zoe Harper, tenor - Joshua L. Gore & Scott Taylor, bass
Cover Art:	Images from ChurchArt.com

A Blessed Christmas to You All. May Peace Prevail on Earth.

STAFF

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