



**Prelude
Welcome**

Introit "Sweet Little Jesus Boy" arr. R. MacGimsey
Tom Sweet, soloist

Lighting the Christ Candle

Many: O Come, O Come Emmanuel and ransom captive
Israel. Who mourns in lonely exile here until the Child
of God appear! Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall
come to thee, O Israel!

One: Rejoice, and do not be afraid! For see – I am bringing you
good news of great joy for all people: those who have
walked in the gloom of discouragement and despair have
seen a great Light.
(The candle of Hope is lit.)

**Many: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O
Israel!**

One: Rejoice, rejoice, and do not be afraid! For those who
have lived in lands shadowed by oppression and
unspeakable violence, even on them the Light has
shined.
(The candle of Peace is lit.)

**Many: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O
Israel!**

One: Again I say, rejoice! For though the night of grief and
sorrow should cover us, and the Light around us become
night, still there is One for whom even the night is as
bright as the day.
(The candle of Joy is lit.)

**Many: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O
Israel!**

One: And yet again I tell you, rejoice! For though hate and fear
reign today, in truth the shadow is only a small and
passing thing. The light of love shines even in darkness,
and darkness cannot overcome it.
(The candle of Love is lit.)

**Many: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O
Israel! O Come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our
spirits by thine advent here. O, drive away the shades
of night and pierce the clouds and bring us Light!
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O
Israel!**

Call to Worship/Prayer

Leader: Let us go, in heart and mind,

People: to see what has come to pass.

Leader: Let us go with the shepherds:

People: Let us go to find the Savior!

Leader: Let us go with the wise ones:

People: Let us go to find God's promise, born for us!

Leader: Let us go with the poor and humble:

People: Let us go to find our King, born in a lowly manger.

Leader: Let us go with all the world, with all the peoples of the
nations.

**All: Come, let us worship; come, let us adore him: Christ
the Lord!**

***Opening Hymn** #159 "There's a Song in the Air!"

Scripture Luke 2:1-14

Anthem "Mary Did You Know?" Greene/Lowry

Sermon Rev. Robin Bird

Prayer/Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Call to Offering

Our offering tonight goes to the Christmas Fund of the United Church of Christ, which offers support to those Children of God who have blessed the Church with their service and who are experiencing financial difficulties. You are invited now to share your Light, to give as generously as you are able. In that Spirit, our Christmas Eve offering will now be received.

Offertory "O Holy Night" Adolphe Adam
Patrick Connolly, soloist

Prayer of Dedication

O God of Hope, God of Peace, God of Joy, God of Love, we pray you bless these gifts, that they might become a blessing

to this world you love so very much. May those who receive them know that you are with them, in this holy season and in all their days to come. In the name of the Child of Bethlehem, Emmanuel the Light of the World, we pray. Amen.

***Closing Hymn** "Silent Night, Holy Night" *(insert)*

(Please place candles in the basket as you exit.)

Postlude "Hallelujah Chorus" Handel/Gower

***All who are able are invited to stand.**

Preludes

James Burr, Organist

"The Sounds of Christmas" arr. Hughes

"I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve" Gabrielsen

"Venite Adoremus" Wilson