

WORSHIP HANDOUT
December 24, 2020
A Person of Hope – Christmas Eve



OPENING OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

When we wait in the night
in the hush that only stars can hold
as they bend towards the coming of the light;

when we wait in the night
laboring with anticipation
of what midnight shall bring;

when we wait in the night
listening to the cadence of minutes
beat in rhythm with the birth of hope;

may we hold our collective breaths
with the angelic host
as they clutch their restless alleluias,

may we hold our collective breaths
with the family gathered together
though they had never met before
hoping to witness a miracle.

for God is on the way:
the mother is laboring
the father pacing
the family are readying

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful
thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

~ attributed to Robert Louis Stevenson

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
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 and the power and the glory now and
forever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN

Star-Child

TFWS #2095

LESSON I Isaiah 9:2-7 (CEB)

² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.

³ You have made the nation great;

you have increased its joy.

They rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest,

as those who divide plunder rejoice.

⁴ As on the day of Midian, you've shattered the yoke that burdened
them,

the staff on their shoulders,

and the rod of their oppressor.

⁵ Because every boot of the thundering warriors,

and every garment rolled in blood

will be burned, fuel for the fire.

⁶ A child is born to us, a son is given to us,
and authority will be on his shoulders.
He will be named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ There will be vast authority and endless peace
for David's throne and for his kingdom,
establishing and sustaining it
with justice and righteousness
now and forever.

HYMN O Come, All Ye Faithful v 1, 2, 3, 6 UMH #234

LESSON 2 Luke 2:1-7 (CEB)

In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. ² This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. ³ Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. ⁴ Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. ⁵ He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. ⁷ She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

HYMN Angels We Have Heard on High UMH #238

LESSON 3 Luke 2:8-20 (CEB)

⁸ Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. ⁹ The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified.

¹⁰ The angel said, “Don’t be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. ¹¹ Your savior is born today in David’s city. He is Christ the Lord. ¹² This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger.” ¹³ Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors.”

¹⁵ When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go right now to Bethlehem and see what’s happened. Let’s confirm what the Lord has revealed to us.” ¹⁶ They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. ¹⁸ Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. ²⁰ The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.

L: This is the Word of God for all people.

P: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE “Into the Middle of our Lives”

HYMN Joy to the World UMH #246

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY UMH #95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

LIGHTING OF CANDLES

O Little Town of Bethlehem v 1, 2
Silent Night, Holy Night

UMH #230

UMH #239

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

UMH #251

POSTLUDE