

WORSHIP HANDOUT

December 24th

Christmas Eve

In the Beginning

OPENING OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*SONG OF WELCOME Joy to the World UMH 246

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Hope was kindled,

It brightened our hearts.

Peace seeks to break into our lives,

Creating a new heart in us.

Joy sparks and grows,

It makes our hearts jump and swell.

Love takes us residence within,

Our hearts become a home.

Christ arrives this night,

It is the beginning again, a new start, a fresh heart.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES - Christ

SONG AS CHILDREN GATHER Away in a Manger UMH 217 v I

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

*HYMN Love Has Come W&S 3059

TIME OF PRAYER

**CHRISTMAS 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
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.**

PRAYER HYMN O Little Town of Bethlehem UMH 230 v 1&2

LESSON I Isaiah 9:2-7 CEB

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.**

The zeal of the Lord of heavenly forces will do this.

May God add a Blessing to this reading.

*HYMN Angels we have Heard on High UMH 238 v 1-3

*LESSON 2 Luke 2:1-14 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.

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

It is right...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you...as we proclaim the mystery of faith.
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your...now and for ever.
Amen.

*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES
Choir – Peace, Peace (flute?)
Silent Night, Holy Night UMH 239

POSTLUDE