

**Christmas Eve
December 24, 2025
One Divine Detail
4:00 pm**

ALL children and youth are invited to participate in our pageant tonight. No rehearsal necessary! Go to the back of the church to receive your costume.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING SONG O Come all ye Faithful v. 1,2,3,4, 6 No.234

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

(Next is the telling of the Christmas story in scripture and song. Children dressed as the nativity characters come forward during the song and are seated at the front of the sanctuary around the manger.)

Narrator: Once a long time ago, God determined to show LOVE to the world, in a way never before shown. The showing of God's Love is called CHRISTMAS!

It is a wonderful story!
It is a mystery which unfolds before our eyes!
Tonight we hear it told again, for us, here,
in this place said to be Holy,
because we are here and God is here, with us,
as together we go to Bethlehem.

It was a crowded city that night, Bethlehem, the city of David. People from all over the world had returned to the city of their fathers. Here they would register and a census would be taken. Joseph and Mary sought a place to stay. An inn. A room, somewhere, anywhere. A safe place from the chilly night air. But there was no place, no room in the inn. At the city's edge was a stable, a place where animals could be protected and fed. There, in

the stable, Mary and Joseph found warmth and protection. They would stay there until a new day brought new light.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-5

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem (verse 1)

No.230

(Mary and Joseph enter)

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:6-7

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

HYMN

Away in a Manger (vs 1 & 2)

(Animals enter)

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:8-14

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."
16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child,

HYMN

Angels We have heard on High (v. 1)

No.238

(Angels enter)

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:15-18

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."
So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

HYMN

While Shepherds watched their flocks (vs 1)

(Shepherds enter)

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."
3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:
6 "'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

HYMN

We Three Kings (v 1)
(Kings enter)

No.254

Narrator: Heaven looked down on that Holy Night as a manger became an altar and a stable became a cathedral. History now looks back to that moment in time when God came in Jesus to reveal himself to people everywhere. The humble shepherds were there. The Wise men bowed before him. And tonight we all join them as we gather around the manger. What a night! A Holy Night! A night of hope for today and tomorrow.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

HYMN

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear v. 1,2

No.218

ONE DIVINE DETAIL- A LETTER FROM CHRISTMAS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Ever-giving God, thank you for the amazing gift of Jesus, who is the Light of Life. As we remember his baptism, and our own, accept our thanks for the way

we are built up together into Christ. We pray for you to receive our gratitude, our gifts, and our intention to continue as followers of Jesus. Help us use what is provided, to share the Good News of your love with those close by and others, to the ends of the earth. AMEN

HYMN	Good Christian Friends, Rejoice v. 1., 2	No.224
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HYMN	Silent Night	No.239
	<i>Please tilt the unlight candle toward the lighted one.</i>	

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE