

**Reading:** Silent Night, Holy Night (from Prayer Seeds, by Joyce Rupp) Liz Plummer

**Anthem** *This Silent Night* arr. Lopéz

*This holy night all is calm, all is bright. God’s love came down on this silent night. This quiet night all is calm, all is bright. Heaven came down on this holy night. So long expected by prophets of old; as promised, the Christ-Child had come as foretold. This holy night hear the mother’s sweet song. Angels appeared and with joy sang along. Shepherd’s on hills guarding sheep in the night heard glorious sounds and were blinded by light. God’s glory and grace asleep on the hay, the hope of the world on manger bed lay.*

(Choir & congregation)

**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.**

*God’s love came down on this silent night.*

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 2.1-20 Liz Plummer

**Anthem** *Sing We Noel* Goemanne

*Sing We Noel, Sing we Noel! Sing we Noel, Sing we Noel!  
Christ was born for us today; Love and peace be here to stay.  
Now we raise to heaven our voice, Sing we now, rejoice, rejoice.  
Sing we Noel, Sing we Noel! Sing we Noel, Sing we Noel!  
Mary now filled with heav’nly joy: “Emmanuel” she named the Boy.  
Heaven is near, “O do not fear,” the angel said, “The Christ is here!”  
Heaven came to earth, He saved us by His birth.  
O mighty Child, O King of kings, the universe in praise now sings.  
Sing we Noel, Sing we Noel! Sing we Noel, Sing we Noel!*

**Reading:** Christmas Then and Now (from Prayer Seeds, by Joyce Rupp) Ryan Barwick

**Silence for Meditation**  
*We invite you into a time of uninterrupted silence, making room for the Spirit to be born anew.*

**Hymn 179** *Joy to the World!* ANTIOCH

**Benediction** Don Durham

Please close Meeting for Worship by shaking hands with your neighbors.

- O Holy Presence,  
whose love brings all things into being,  
come, and draw open by your light the ancient blossoms.
- O Beloved,  
radiant with glory in all Creation,  
come, and awaken us; teach us to see.
- O Hands of God,  
who has opened doors that none could shut,  
who has healed and blessed, and none could defy,  
come, and hold us in your grace.
- O King of Gentleness,  
who knows our sorrow and yet embraces us with joy,  
come, and guide our hands in the way of healing.
- O Open Eye,  
who sees us in all truth, and loves us,  
come, and reveal in us your beauty.
- O Light of Justice,  
whose heart breaks for those who sit in darkness,  
come, and show us the way of courage and compassion.
- O Companion,  
who makes us all one in your love,  
come, and kindle in our hearts the spirit of the Beloved.

by Steve Garnaas-Holmes

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome, Announcements, Joys & Concerns  
Sheila Hoyer

Silence for Centering Prayer

Hymn 160  
Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn  
REJOICE, REJOICE

Prayer  
Ryan Barwick

Anthem  
The Yearning  
Courtney

There is a yearning in hearts weighed down by ancient grief and centuries of sorrow. There is a yearning in hearts that in the darkness hide and in the shades of death abide, a yearning for tomorrow.

There is a yearning, a yearning for the promised One, the First-born of creation. There is a yearning for the Lord who visited His own, and by His death for sin atoned, to bring to us salvation.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning. Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.

There is a yearning that fills the hearts of those who wait the day of His appearing. There is a yearning when all our sorrows are erased and we shall see the One who placed within our hearts the yearning.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning. Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40.3-5  
Ryan Barwick

Advent Song  
Come, Now O Prince of Peace  
Hymn 157  
(stanzas 1-3)  
Jenn Bonsall, oboe

Reading: The Reign of God (by Steve Garnaas-Holmes)  
Liz Plummer

Anthem  
All Earth is Hopeful  
arr. Bobb  
Diane Burns and Janice Kirkman, percussion

Toda la tierra espera al Salvador y el sucrose abierto, la obra del Señor; es el mundo que lucha por la libertad, reclama justicia y busca la verdad.

All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last! Furrows lie open for God’s creative task; this, the labor of people who struggle to see how God’s truth and justice set everybody free.

People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell: “A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel”: she conceived him “God with us,” our brother, whose birth restores hope and courage to children of this earth.

Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared; new highways opened, new protocols declared. Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace! All clear every gateway, in haste, come out in haste!

We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib. This same Lord Jesus today has come to live in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see our Jesus is with us, Jesus is with us and ever sets us free.

Reading: Peace on Earth (from Kneeling in Bethlehem, by Ann Weems)  
Ryan Barwick

Anthem  
What Sweeter Music  
Rutter  
(based on poem by Robert Herrick, 1591-1674)

What sweeter music can we bring  
Than a carol, for to sing  
The birth of this our heav’nly King?  
Awake the voice! Awake the string!  
Dark and dull night, fly hence away,  
And give the honor to this day  
That sees December turned to May.  
Why does the chilling winter’s morn  
Smile, like a field beset with corn?  
Or smell like a meadow newly shorn  
Thus on the sudden? Come and see  
The cause, why things thus fragrant be:  
‘Tis he is born, whose quickening birth  
Gives life and lustre, public mirth,  
To heaven and the under-earth.  
We see him come, and know him ours,  
Who, with his sunshine and his show’rs,  
Turns the patient ground to flow’rs.  
The darling of the world is come,  
And fit it is, we find a room  
To welcome him.  
The nobler part of all the house here, is the heart,  
Which we will give him; and bequeath  
This holly, and this ivy wreath,  
To do him honor; who’s our King,  
And Lord of all this revelling.  
What sweeter music can we bring  
Than a carol for to sing  
The birth of this our heav’nly King.

Offertory Prayer  
Sheila Hoyer

Offertory  
Wachet Auf  
J.S. Bach, arr. Matt Naughtin  
Violin: Anna Gilbert, Angel Joel  
Cello: Jenny Rowlett, David Gilbert