

A manger filled with straw and a white cloth, set against a warm, golden background. The manger is dark, and the straw is light brown. The white cloth is draped over the top of the manger. The background is a soft, hazy glow of gold and yellow.

CHRISTMAS EVE

COMMUNION CANDLELIGHT
LESSONS & CAROLS

6:00 PM

Prelude

Call to Worship | Revelation 1:8; 4:11

Minister: "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

"Worthy are you, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created."

Let us worship our worthy Lord God tonight!

Carol | "Joy to the World"

Invocation

First Lesson | Genesis 2:8-25 (selected verses)

Our first lesson tells of how God created Adam and Eve to live in relationship and obedience to him in the perfect paradise of the Garden of Eden. Try to imagine such a world, free from sin and misery.

Carol | "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Second Lesson | Genesis 3:1-19, 24

Our second lesson is also from the Garden of Eden. Genesis 3 recounts what is known as the Fall. Adam and Eve sinned by rejecting God's Word and disobeying him. In this chapter we learn about the sin that has led to our sin, misery, and pain, and why our world is not the way it is supposed to be. However, we may listen for God's promise in Genesis 3:15, his promise to send a Savior, the offspring of the woman, who will crush the head of the serpent through his own suffering and rescue the world.

Carol | "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Third Lesson | Genesis 12:1-3; 22:15-18

When God spoke to Abram, he promised a Savior so that all the families of the world would be blessed. God later changed his name to Abraham and repeated his promise to give him a son to bless all the nations of the earth through his offspring.

Carol | "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

Fourth Lesson | Isaiah (selected readings)

The Prophet Isaiah foretells the coming of the Savior born as a baby boy to a virgin. This prophecy should call us to remember the promise from Genesis 3:15 concerning the offspring of the woman, who will be the Savior to bring complete and total peace and justice to the world.

Carol | "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Fifth Lesson | Micah 5:2-5

The Prophet Micah foretells of how the Savior, first promised long ago back in the Garden of Eden, will one day be born in the village of Bethlehem.

Carol | "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Sixth Lesson | Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary that she will bear the Son of the Most High, the long-awaited Savior, and his name will be Jesus.

Carol | "What Child Is This?"

Seventh Lesson | Luke 2:1-7

Jesus, the long-awaited Savior, is born in Bethlehem.

Sermon | "The Christ of Christmas" | Luke 2:1-7 | Rev. Richard Harris

Carol | "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Eighth Lesson | Luke 2:8-20

Jesus is worshipped by the angels and shepherds.

Carol | "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Ninth Lesson | Hebrews 1:1-12

In the fullness of time, God sent his Son, Jesus. Jesus lived the perfectly sinless life we have all failed to live. Jesus died on Calvary's cross as our substitute to pay for our sins. Jesus then rose from the grave and returned to the right hand of God the Father, and Jesus' reign is forever and ever.

Carol | "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing"

Tenth Lesson | John 1:1-18

The Apostle John relates the miracle of the Incarnation in the profound and poetic words that open his Gospel. The Word was made flesh and we have seen his glory!

Carol | "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Affirmation of Faith | The Nicene Creed

Minister: Christians, what do we believe?

All: We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life,

continued

who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**The term catholic refers to the church universal, knowing no racial, economic, geographical, or language barriers.*

Call to Confession and Prayer

Minister: The gospel calls us to the cross not once but continually: for renewal, for comfort, and for forgiveness.

Lord, you showed us true humility by becoming one of us,

People: yet too often we practice pride.

Minister: You cried alongside your friends and for the city of Jerusalem,

People: yet too often we rush past the pain of others and are careless about our cities.

Minister: You loved those who were weak, despised, or cast out,

People: yet too often we only love those who are strong, respected, or popular.

Minister: You freely forgave and healed,

People: yet too often we hold grudges and cause pain.

Minister: You lived a perfectly holy life,

People: yet too often we do not yearn for righteousness.

Minister: You prayed that we who believe in you should be united with each other and you,

People: yet too often we focus on the differences that separate us from other believers.

Minister: You were mocked, whipped, and even killed for us,

People: yet too often we deny you.

Minister: You call us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world,

People: yet too often we blend into or hide from our culture.

All: Forgive us, Lord, so that we will shine with your glory. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort | Romans 8:1

Minister: There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Hear and receive the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God!

Words of Institution

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Celebration of Light

Carol | "Silent Night"

Benediction

All music used by permission: CCLI#33408