

Christmas Eve Service 2025
KINDRED SPIRIT
December 24th

Music Prelude

Greeting/Welcome/Announcement

Call to Worship

One: On this holy night, we gather in hope and wonder.

All: We come to welcome the light of Christ.

One: The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light.

All: The light shines in our hearts and in our world.

One: A child is born, a gift of love and peace for all people.

All: We rejoice in God's promise made new among us.

One: Let us join in the joy of God's great gift and celebrate His arrival among us.

All: Let us worship God, who comes to dwell with us. Amen.

Opening Prayer All

Gracious God, as we light these candles and lift our voices in praise, draw near to us with your peace. Help us to behold the wonder of your Christmas gift, the Word made flesh, who dwells among us. Ignite our hearts with hope, fill our minds with your truth, and renew our spirits with your love. May our worship honor you, our lives reflect your grace, and our witness point others to the light of Christ. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Hymn: VU#60 O Come All Ye Faithful

Isaiah 9:2b, 6-7 Hope and God's Promised Leader

Candle Lighting

Hymn: MV#158 Dream a Dream

Luke 2: 1-7 **Jesus' birth**

Hymn: VU#47 Still, Still, Still.

Luke 2: 8-14 **Announcement to Shepherds**

Choir Anthem: Angels' Carol

Luke 2: 15-20 **Witnessing and Sharing the Joy of Jesus' Birth**

Hymn: VU#75 While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

Meditation

Hymn: VU#91 The First Nowell (1,2, 5 & 6)

Offering

Offering Prayer (All)

Blessed God, we thank you for the gift of provision. May these offerings be used to bless those in need, to share your love, and to bring hope to our community. Guide our hands and hearts as we give, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn VU#48 Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Matthew 2: 1-12 Coming of the Magi.

Hymn: VU#43 Go Tell It on the Mountain

Prayer of the People

Loving God, on this holy night, we bring before you the joys and burdens of our hearts, trusting in your unfailing love.

We pray for our world, where conflict, hunger, and injustice persist. May the light of your Christ shine into places of darkness. Give wisdom and courage to those who lead, compassion to those who serve, and comfort to those who suffer.

We pray for our city, O God, for neighbors in need, for the lonely, the anxious, and the weary. Strengthen our communities, guide our hands to care for one another, and open our hearts to acts of kindness, big and small.

We pray for the struggles in our own lives: for those facing illness, financial strain, broken relationships, or loss. Wrap us in your peace, calm our fears, and remind us that your love is nearer than we know.

We pray for personal struggles among us. Tonight, we lift.... who are facing concern/challenge, and who is/are seeking your guidance in their lives. Surround them with your presence, strengthen their hearts, and grant them hope and comfort in the days ahead.

We pray for this congregation, gathered in hope and celebration. May we be bearers of your light, living witnesses of your mercy, and instruments of your reconciliation. Help us to shine the joy of Christ into every corner of our lives, especially where hope feels distant.

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

Go now, as bearers of this holy gift, to share joy, to serve faithfully, and to shine the light of Christ in every place you go.

And the blessing of God Almighty—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—be with you always. Amen.

Hymn: VU#67 Silent Night, Holy Night

(the congregation will form a circle around the sanctuary and candles will be lit.)

Blessing