

*Christmas Eve
A Service for the Worship of God*



Southminster Presbyterian Church

December 24, 2020 at 8:00 p.m.

PREPARATION

*On Christmas Eve, we invite you to light your
Christ Candle at home as we light it during worship.*

*If you have time, watch the following very brief video link before
the worship service: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7vJPAQJAvig>*

Notice what Linus does with his blanket.

Gathering Around God's Word

Prelude

Jim Pera

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong

Introit

*"Celtic Christmas Lullaby"
Vocal Ensemble*

arr. Joel Raney

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Mark and Liz Ferguson

Hymn # 133

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

verses 1,3, and 4

Prayer of Praise and Adoration (in unison)

Andrew McKenzie

Holy One, we come to adore you on bended knee, with hopeful hearts and eyes stretched wide with wonder. The gentleness of your gaze draws us into the mystery of all that lies beyond. In that place of falling into joy, we yield all that we are to you. Open our eyes to see, in Jesus Christ, your loving purposes. Stir within us the spirit of adoring praise.

Embracing God, in the quietness of this hour, touch our understanding with your Holy Spirit, that we may know and share your amazing love. Generous God, we are grateful for light in our darkness and hope for the world through a baby born in Bethlehem. With your help, we will strive to become bearers of your light and your peace. Amen.

Response

“Angels We Have Heard on High

Hymn 113, verse 1

**Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.
Glo...ria in excelsis Deo.
Glo...ria in excelsis Deo.**

Passing of the Peace

Andrew McKenzie

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: *And also with you.*

Hearing God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

Andrew McKenzie

Anthem

“Mary, Did You Know?”
Dorian Arnold, soloist

Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-20

Rev. Laura Nile Tuell

Hymn # 140

“Once in Royal David’s City”

verses 1,2, and 4

Sermon

“**When Linus Drops His Blanket**”

Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong

Responding to God's Word

- Anthem** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" *arr. Joel Raney*
Vocal Ensemble
- Presentation of Offerings** *Rev. Laura Nile Tuell*
- Presentation Hymn #150** "As With Gladness Men of Old" *verse 3*
As they offered gifts most rare,
At Thy manger rude and bare;
So may we with holy joy,
Pure, and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ to Thee, our heaven-ly King.
- Christmas Prayer** *Rev. Laura Nile Tuell*
- Anthem** "Cantique de Noel" *Adolphe Adam*
("O Holy Night") *Cari Sullivan, soloist*
- "Silent Night"** *Hymn #122*
As We Sing, We Will Watch the Candle Lighting on Video
After the Christmas Prayer, our tradition is for all of the people in the congregation to light their candles, passing the light from one person to the next while we sing, "Silent Night."
Since we can't do that this year, we will be showing a video of some of our congregation members lighting their candles.
- Charge and Benediction** *Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*
written by Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman (1899-1981)
- Postlude** *Jim Pera*



***The poinsettias were given to the glory of God by the Worship Team.
We wish all of you a very Merry Christmas!***