

# THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Rev. Ellen Hopkins, Presider  
Bill Ericson, Liturgist  
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## Prelude

### \*Call to Worship

Hear the Good News:

**Jesus Christ is born!**

Break forth together into song:

**Joy to the world**

*our Lord has come!*

### \*Hymn

*Sing We Now of Christmas*

UMH 237

### Lighting of the Christ Candle

the Russell family

### Advent Hymn

5 We too must join the an - gel throng to sing a -  
gain this joy - ful song: "All glo - ry be to  
God in heaven, who un - to us his Son had given."

**Gospel Reading** Luke 2: 1-7

**Hymn** *The First Noel* UMH 245

**Gospel Reading** Luke 2: 8-14

**Hymn** *Good Christian Friends Rejoice* UMH 224

**Gospel Reading** Luke 2: 15-20

**Hymn** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* UMH 240

**Sermon** Rev. Ellen Hopkins

**Pastoral Prayer**

God of the ages, we praise you,  
for in the dawn of time you created the world,  
sending light by your Word to dispel darkness.

In Jesus Christ you began a new creation,  
sending him to be the Light of the world,  
to drive away fear and despair,  
and to rule in peace and justice, holiness and love.

Especially we thank you  
for the order and beauty of your creation ...  
for coming in Jesus Christ to share our human life ...  
for the place you give us in your continuing creation ...  
for the promise of peace among nations, and justice for all peoples ...  
for the Church as the sign of your coming kingdom ...

Mighty God, prepare the world for your rule,  
for we long for the day  
when there shall be no more crying or tears,  
and death will be destroyed.

Help us to share the ministry of Christ and be agents of his compassion.

Especially we pray  
for the nations of the earth and peace in the world ...  
for victims and survivors of violence ...  
for those who are sick and suffering ...  
for our families and friends ...  
for the Church and those who serve in Christ's name ...

All this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

And now with the confidence of the children of God, let us pray...

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Creator/Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we  
forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**The Giving of God's Tithes and Our Offerings**

**Musical Offering**

*Still, Still, Still*

Chancel Choir

**\*The Doxology**

UMH 95

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise God, the Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen.**

**DEPARTING TO LOVE AND SERVE**

**Hymn Circle & Candle lighting: *Silent Night***

*The congregation stands and forms a circle around the sanctuary as we light our candles and sing:*

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.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;  
Radiance beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

**Postlude**

*There are no services Christmas Day. Enjoy the holiday with your family.*