

# Celebrating Life through Divine Worship

## Christmas Day

December 25, 2011

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### The time of centering:

The Christ child changed the world forever, and He can do the same for us. On this Christmas day, we, like the shepherds of old, are called to celebrate the birth of baby Jesus. May we, like those shepherds, leave our fields – wherever they may be – and pause to worship God’s priceless Christmas gift: the Light of the World, the Prince of Peace.

**PRELUDE** *Worship begins as the chimes sound*

### ENTRANCE OF THE LIGHT

#### INVOCATION

E. Lee Phillips

God of Creation and Incarnation, make known your will this Christmas that as your children we may reflect the nativity light of Bethlehem, even the Light of the world, Christ Jesus, that never dims. Amen

#### WELCOME

#### PRAISE SONGS

*"Good Christian Friends Rejoice"*

*"Go Tell it on the Mountain"*

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

**LEADER:** People of God: shout and sing! Tell the good news of peace on earth. Lord, bring us today into Christ’s peace. All God’s people *shout*:

**PEOPLE:** Amen!

**LEADER:** Angels dance and the bright star shines. All creation bows to the Lord of all. Lord, bring us today into Christ’s light. All God’s people *shout*:

**PEOPLE:** Amen!

**LEADER:** One with us, yet born to save, he will show us the way to God. Lord, bring us today into Christ’s love. All God’s people *shout*:

**PEOPLE:** Amen!

**LEADER:** People of God: shout and sing:

**PEOPLE:** Amen!

**ALL:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

#### CHILDREN’S SERMON

#### TIME OF PRAYER

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

**SPECIAL MUSIC** *“Where are you Christmas?”* Madelyn Knutter

#### OUR DISCIPLESHIP OF GIVING

Offering

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

#### HYMN OF PREPARATION

*"What Child is This" 219*

#### SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 60:1, Luke 2:11, Ephesians 5:8-10 NIV

#### SERMON

*“Child of the Light”*

#### UNISON READING

I believe in Christmas. I believe that God sends light into the dark corners of our lives. I am a shepherd, startled to hear the good news of the angels, but eager to go and see for myself. I am Mary, aware that somehow God is using me to accomplish things too big to imagine. I am Joseph, not understanding fully that which God calls me to do, but following as faithfully as I can. I am the innkeeper, busy and frazzled, but making some room, somehow, for God to be born. I am the Wiseman, on a journey of discovery, bearing my gift to be given to glorify God. And yes, I am the angel, proclaiming in my own life, the glorious good news that God has come into the world and we shall never be the same. Today and throughout the year to come, I will proclaim that Christ is born, that Christmas is here, that God is with us! Amen.

#### \*HYMN FOR GOING FORTH

*"Joy to the World" (V1 & 4) 246*

#### TAKING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

#### BENEDICTION

Let us rejoice with Mary in the Good News of her son.

Let us look with Joseph to our future hopes.

Let us give with the wise ones to Jesus who saves.

Let us sing with the angels a new and glorious song

Go in peace, then, to love and serve the God of Light.

Go forth, child of the Light! Amen.

#### POSTLUDE

\*Please stand if you are able when indicated by an asterisk