

Many: Every time we gather at this Table, we tell the same story — the story of a Messiah who gathered his friends together for one last supper, the story of a Messiah who loved us so much he just couldn't stay away.

One: So friends, bring the parts of you that feel like the desert. Bring the parts of you that are aching to hear this story again, because this good news is for you.

Lord's Prayer

Sharing the bread and juice

One: The body of Christ,

Many: the Bread of life.

Worshippers eat.

One: The lifeblood of Christ,

Many: the cup of blessing.

Worshippers drink.

Let us take a moment of silence to contemplate this holy mystery that is Emmanuel, God-With-Us.

Time of silence.

Prayer After Receiving

Many: We thank you, God, for breaking into our world and pouring into our lives and our experiences. We thank you, God, for this meal of thanksgiving and the stories of love, grace, and hope that it tells.

Amen.

• Carol VU 239 *Silent Night, Holy Night*

Benediction & Extinguishing the Candles

Postlude *Silent Night* Franz Gruber

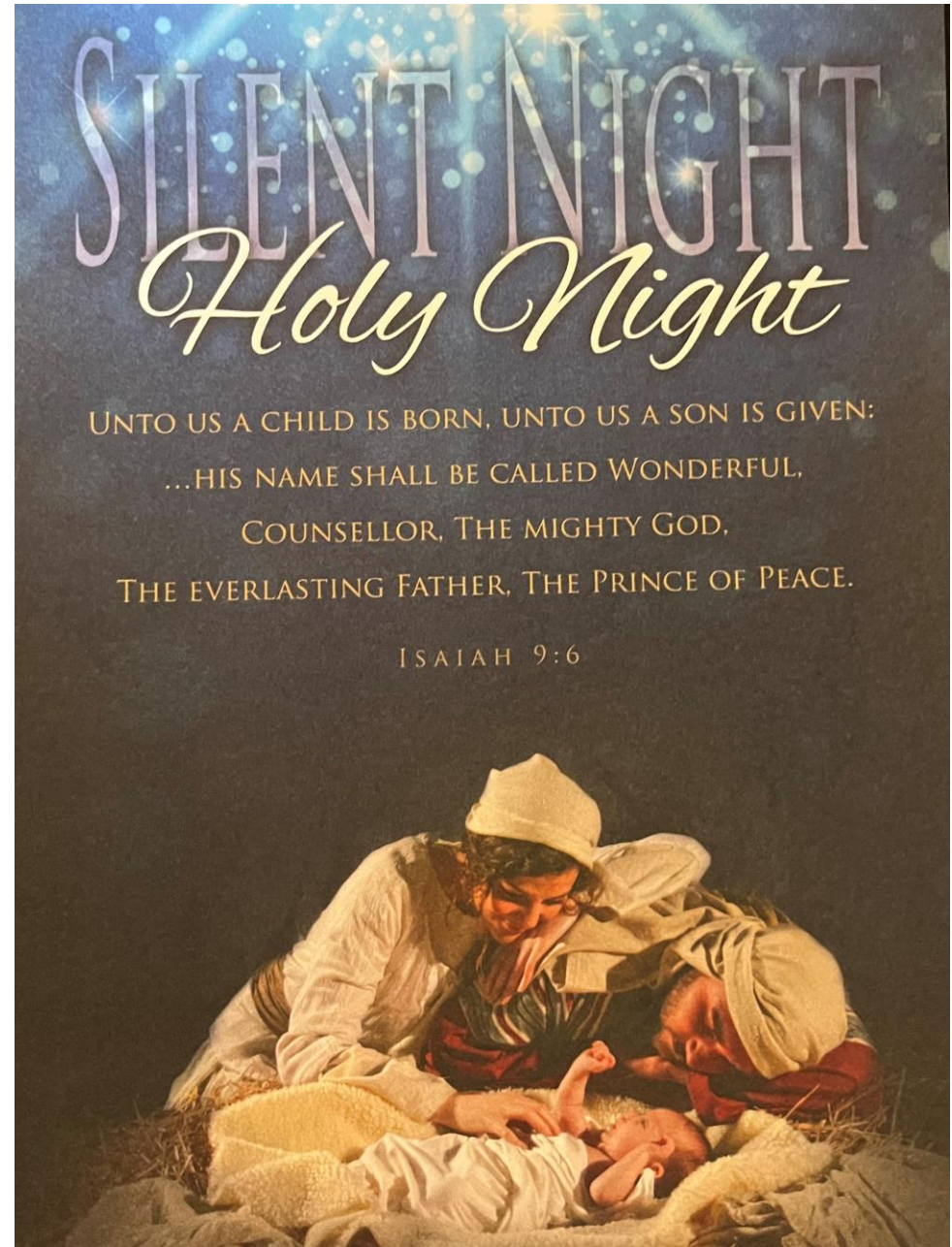
Sending Music

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy, Prayer of Confession & Great Thanksgiving prayers adapted from a prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Prayer After Receiving written by Alydia Smith.

Tonight, we warmly welcome Robin Dagleish as guest musician.

Christmas Eve 2022 10:00 pm



Order of Worship
Quiet Communion
God Invites Us to Gather

• *indicates standing for all who are able*

Prelude *Of the Father's Love Begotten* arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Announcements

Advent Candle Lighting

One: Over a hundred people, from the ages of two to eighty years old, were asked to fill in the blank for the statement: "My story is. . ." From the voices of different generations, hear their answers...

So tonight we light the Christ candle, because from generation to generation, our story belongs to God.

Many: Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

• **Carol VU 64** *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Christmas Eve Prayer of Confession (spoken responsively)

One: Holy God, we admit—we don't fully understand the Christmas story.

Many: We are not familiar with angel choruses.

One: We have not walked many miles to be counted in a census,

Many: and we don't always hear your voice in our dreams.

One: We don't fully understand this story, so we admit, sometimes we hesitate to tell it. Instead of running out into the streets to shout that there is a love bigger than we could imagine,

Many: we whisper this good news.

One: Instead of throwing open the doors and inviting people in,

Many: we simply leave them unlocked, hoping folks will figure it out.

One: Instead of telling the next generation why this night matters so much,

Many: we stay quiet, afraid of creating pressure.

One: Forgive us for our silence.

Many: Forgive us for our hesitation.

One: Forgive us for the moments when we fail to share your good news.

Many: Plant this story of love so deep in our bones that we cannot help but share it from generation to generation. Amen.

Time of silent reflection

One: Friends, repeat after me: No matter where we go,

Many: No matter where we go,

One: No matter what we say,

Many: No matter what we say,

One: No matter what we do,

Many: No matter what we do,

One: We belong to God.

Many: We belong to God.

One: We are held.

Many: We are held.

One: We are loved.

Many: We are loved.

One: We are forgiven.

Many: We are forgiven. Amen!

Choir Anthem *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*

Gospel Lesson *Matthew 1:18-25*

Message *Quiet Communion* Rev. Joe Hopkins

Song of Preparation BU 47 *Still, Still, Still*

Holy Communion Service

Great Thanksgiving Prayers

One: Every Christmas Eve, we gather together in this same room,

Many: to tell the same story of a baby born in a manger.

One: The plot never changes. There are never any surprise twists.

So why do we do it? Why do we keep telling this same story?

Many: We tell this story because our spirits need to hear it.

One: Over and over and over again, like water in the desert, we need to be reminded that God has drawn close to this hurting world. We need to be reminded that God just couldn't stay away. This is true on Christmas Eve, and it is true at this Table.