



*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;  
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;  
*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:  
*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

### Encountering God Through the Word

**Scripture Reading**    **Isaiah 9, selected verses (NRSV)**

*Jennifer Morrill*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
Those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy;  
They rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest.  
For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;  
Authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace  
For the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness  
From this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church!  
**Thanks be to God!**

**Special Music**

“Dormi Jesu”

*Chancel Choir*

**The Birth of Jesus, the Messiah from Luke 2:1-20**

*Rev. Beckie Sweet,  
senior pastor*

**\*Hymn**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

UMH # 240

**Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies,  
With th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem.”  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'incarnate Deity,  
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Message**

"Fear Not, World"

*Rev. Beckie Sweet,  
senior pastor*

### **Responding with Joy and Generosity**

**Special Music**

"There is No Rose"

*Chancel Choir*

**Offering Our Gifts to God**

*The Christmas offering will support the  
Cornell Protestant Cooperative Ministries and the Parsonage Exterior Restoration.  
Thank you for your generosity.*

**Offertory**

"Bring A Torch, Jeanette Isabella"  
by D. Gilliam

*Sondra Weyman, piano  
Claire Weyman, flute*

**\*Doxology**

"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"

UMH # 204

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.**

**God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel. (repeat)**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**God of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, we thankfully give these generous gifts as an expression of all that you have given us. As the prophets foretold, your Son was born for the redemption of our sins. We humbly acknowledge that of all the gifts we have received, your gift of a newborn Messiah, is the one that truly matters. We prayerfully ask you to increase our ability to help others discover anew the best Christmas message ever, the promise of salvation through Jesus Christ. In the name of Love Incarnate, we pray. Amen.**

## We Are Sent Out to Tell the World Christ is Born

### **\*Invitation to Candle Lighting**

### **\*Hymn**

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

UMH # 239

**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;  
Radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

**Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!**

### **\*Dismissal with Blessing**

### **\*Hymn of Response**

“Joy to the World”

UMH # 246

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, repeat the sounding  
joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

### **Postlude**

“Toccata on Von Himmel Hoch”  
by G. Edmunson

*Sondra Weyman, organ*



## 2023 Christmas Poinsettias

Janet Desch in memory of Noel Desch

Sue Dickinson in memory of Don Dickinson

Paul and Barbara Eshelman in memory of family and friends

Family of Bob and Nancy Black in memory of their parents

Karen Harvey in memory of Karla and Harry Ferguson

Wendy Kimble Dugan in memory of Eris and Tom Kimble

Pam and Tim Lillard in memory of Ethan Lillard

Holly Mathison in memory of Donald and Jean Mathison

Cindy McElwee in memory of Tom and Peg Mills and Don Gee

June Nafis and Family in memory of Robert A. Nafis

George and Dorothy Preston in memory of parents Elton and Elizabeth Schaal;  
Arthur and Arlene Preston

Joellyn and Harry Tuttle in memory of Robert and Charlotte Tuttle and Jack Webster

Rev. Beckie Sweet in memory Rev. Burt Sweet and in honor of Marilyn Sweet

Linda Wintje in memory of Lorraine Green

Larry and Arlene Chase in honor of Betty Ellis and Donna Jean Darling

George Gull and Nancy Potter in honor of June Nafis and memory of Bob Nafis

Karen Lehmann and Londa VanDerzee in honor of Ruth Lovelace

Howard and Carolyn Longhouse in honor of Our Family

Staff Parish Relations Committee in gratitude and love of the Staff at St. Paul's

Barbara Wenham in honor of Rev. Beckie Sweet and Marilyn Sweet