



Pleasant Street
Christian Reformed Church
December 24, 2020, 5:00pm
Christmas Eve Service

Prayer of Preparation

Everlasting God, your Son is the light of the world. Your Son is the way, the truth, and the life. Lead us by your light and truth. Looking for Jesus, let us find him. Looked for by Jesus, we are found first. Amen.

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

Still, Still, Still

SONG: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Call to Worship—based on Isaiah 9:2

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

Jesus Christ is our life and light.

In his name and in his power, let us worship God!

SONG: *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Lighting the Advent Candles

As we anticipated the birth of Jesus Christ, we lit candles of hope, peace, joy, and love as reminders of the promise that Emmanuel is our God with us and that God graciously gives these gifts even if they sometimes come in ways that are mysterious to us. Tonight we celebrate that Jesus has come to be the light that shines in our darkness and we do not have to be afraid.

SONG: *Glory (Let There Be Peace)*

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

Prayer of Confession—based on Isaiah 60:1-3

Arise, shine: for your light has come.

O God, we live as if the light had never defeated the darkness in the world or in us.

And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

We confess that we ignore the Christ you sent to be among us, to be in us.

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.

We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for his birth each moment in our waiting hearts.

And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to your coming. It's time that we celebrate you're coming. Let the earth ring with song. Let the light break forth. Let us all rejoice in the miracle of love. Let Christ come into the fullness of our time. Amen.

Words of Assurance—John 1:9,12

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. To all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

Thanks be to God!

SONG: *O Holy Night*

Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Reading: *Luke 2:1-20 (p832); Isaiah 9:2 (p560)*

SONG: *What a Glorious Night*

Message: "Light in the Darkness"

SONG: *Hallelujah (Light Has Come)*

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Prayer

God of all grace, you have sent your Son to be our Redeemer; to give light in our darkness, pardon for our sins, and hope in our turmoil. We give you thanks for all of these gifts which flow from your Word. And we thank you for the presence of your Spirit who enables us to receive them. We have met our Savior here; we know your promises are true, and our hearts have been nourished. Send us forth to live obediently until we gather here again in his name. **Amen.**

SONG: *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*

Benediction

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy and make you heralds of the gospel. **Amen.**

SONG: *Silent Night*



Participants

Preacher: *Pastor Matthew Burns*

Liturgists: *Caden Anema, McKenzie Araujo, Katie Vriesema*

Candle Lighter: *Dylan Anema*

Worship team: *Gil Araujo, Steve Martinka, Matt Mulligan, Jonathan Steele, Becky & Mikaela VandenAkker, Jonny & Sandi Vriesema, Derek Wielsma*

Trumpet: *Dylan Anema*

Tech: *Jason Wielsma/Brett Buma, Jared Wielsma, Sue/Tom Cooper*

Light operator: *Greg VandenAkker*