

Christmas

December 25, 2016

Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Bohemian carol arr. Wilbur Held

Shepherds

* Offertory Response

Christmas Doxology

**Glory be to God the Father, glory be to Christ the Son
Glory to the Holy Spirit, glory to the Three-in One.
Here we offer to you gladly all the gifts that you impart,
As we glory in your Presence, giving from a grateful heart.**

* Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

**With these gifts, O God,
accept the praise and thanksgiving of our hearts,
which rejoice in Your goodness and love.
Let these gifts point to Your presence in the world,
and further Your hope for the world through Jesus,
Emmanuel, God-with-us. Amen.**

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We Go Forth to Serve

* Hymn of Sending # 145 (verses 1,2, & 5)

Once in Royal David's City

* Benediction in Song # 809

**God be with you, God be with you,
God be with you till we meet again.
God be with you, God be with you,
God be with you till we meet again.**

Postlude

Allan Mahnke

Toccata on "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

We Gather To Worship

Peeling of the bells & lighting of the candles

Gathering

Corelli

Pastorale from the 'Christmas' Concerto

* Introit

***Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel;
God with us, revealed in us; His name is called Emmanuel***

* Call to Worship

L: Leave your exile behind; God is calling us home.

All: We'll follow the Way through the desert.

L: Enter the desert without fear; God's water will quench our thirst.

All: We'll walk the Highway of God's people.

L: Travel God's Highway with joy; God is leading us to life in abundance.

**All: We'll strengthen weak hands, and support feeble knees;
We'll encourage the fearful and calm the anxious:
Rejoice! Be strong! God is with us!**

L: Come, let us worship!

* Hymn of Praise # 110

Now Bless the God of Israel

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We Share Our Life Together

Passing of the Peace (Greeting)

Lighting of the Advent Candle

* Hymn # 584 (verses 1-3)

I Am the Light of the World

Announcements and Prayer Concerns

**Please stand as you are able*

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Prayers of the People

Reverend Rebecca Shillingburg

Prayer of Confession

L: God of Hope, You call us to patience and diligence
in the painstaking work of Your Reign,

**All: But we get discouraged and give up too soon.
Lord, have mercy.**

L: God of Peace, You call us to collaborate in community
in the painstaking work of Your Reign,

**All: But we neither trust nor honor the gifts of others.
Christ, have mercy.**

L: God of Joy, You call us to be full of joyful confidence
in the painstaking work of Your Reign,

**All: But, we burden ourselves with anxiety and fear.
Lord, have mercy.**

L: Forgive us, O God, and lead us in the ways of hope, peace, and joy.

Silent Prayer

Prayer of Intercession

L: Loving God, through the gift of prayer, ...
Gracious God, this is our prayer:

**All: May Your love overflow in our lives,
in Your church, and in all the world,
until all may know the compassion of Christ Jesus,
our Savior and Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Prayer Response

**O come to my heart, Lord Jesus
There is room in my heart for Thee!**

Assurance of God's Love

Hear the good news: Jesus, savior from sin, is present with us
in the painstaking work of the Reign of God
bringing hope to sustain us in our weakness,
rebuilding our relationships through peace,
and restoring our joy in serving God. Amen.



We Hear the Word

* Hymn of Inspiration # 126

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Hebrew Scripture

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Greek Scripture

Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel

John 9:1-41

L: This is the word of the Lord! **P: Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Rev. John Shillingburg

Funny Stories

Anthem

English carol arr. Stan Pethel

How Far Is It To Bethlehem?



We Respond to the Word

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Rebecca Shillingburg

Prayer of Our Savior

**All: Our 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.**

Prayer Response

**O holy child of Bethlehem! Descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in; Be born in us today.**