GATHERING

PRELUDE  
Linda Dover, organist

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN 141  
“On This Day Earth Shall Ring”  
(personal Hodie)
CALL TO WORSHIP

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. We long for a light to guide us.

For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. We long to be relieved of all that we carry.

You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy. We long for God's joy in our lives.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

He is named Emmanuel: God with us. In this tiny baby, this vulnerable child, we find our light, our joy, our comfort. Joy to the World! The Lord is come!

HYMN 134 "Joy to the World" ANTIOCH
1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room,

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow

4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature

   repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,

   far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,

   wonders of his love, wonders of his love,

   and heaven and nature sing,

   and heaven, and heaven and nature sing,

   sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing,

   joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

   found, far as, far as the curse is found.

   love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

   heaven and nature sing,
Hear the good news of Christmas. In a humble stable, God has revealed to us the wonders of divine love. A child, who is the Christ, has been born for us bringing forgiveness and love. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you and all others!

HYMN 123                            “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”                                    CAROL

(Verse 1, 3, 4 & 5)
In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.
One: Holy wisdom, holy word.
All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM
“Of The Father’s Love Begotten”
The Trigger Family
DIVINUM MYSTERIUM
arr. Paul Wohlgemuth

SERMON
“The Night of His Birth”
Rev. Sue Trigger

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN 119
“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”
MENDELSSOHN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glo-ry to the new-born king.
2 Christ, by high-est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev-er-last-ing Lord,
3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!

Peace on earth and mer-cy mild, God and sin-ners rec-on-ciled!”
Late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin’s womb.
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal-ing in his wings.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies; Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate deity, Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,

with the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!” pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born king!”

CHARGE & BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE Linda Dover, organist

God’s Peace to You!

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