

† *Please stand as you are able*

Prelude

Welcome

Chiming the Trinity

Lighting the Christ Candle

One: Tonight, we tell the story when love became flesh. The Word of God has come to show us what God is like and God wants to be with us. He is the light that shines in the darkness, and lights always shine brighter the darker things get.

(Christ candle is lit.)

All: So tonight, we light the Christ candle remembering and giving thanks that Jesus, the Light of God, has entered into our world, and the darkness could not overcome him. Thanks be to God!

† *Opening Song*

O Come, All Ye Faithful

UMH 234

† *Call to Worship (based on Luke 2:1-20)*

One: A Nazarene man named Joseph and a woman named Mary went to Bethlehem to be registered, and the time came for the woman to give birth to a child.

Many: The woman gave birth to her firstborn son, named Jesus, and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

One: meanwhile, shepherds were watching over their flocks at night. Suddenly, an angel appeared out of nowhere! They were very afraid. But the angel said,

Many: “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people! To you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, the Messiah... the Lord!”

One: The angel continued, “This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in cloth and lying in a feeding trough.”

Many: And the shepherds said to one another, “let us go to Bethlehem and see for ourselves what the Lord has revealed to us.”

One: Let us join together in praise as we journey with them to Bethlehem.

† *Hymn*

O Little Town of Bethlehem

UMH 230

† One: The shepherds found Mary, Joseph, and the child wrapped in cloth lying in a feeding trough, just as the angel had said.

Many: And they said to them, “look, an angel appeared to us while we were in the fields and told us to go find this baby, who is said to be the Messiah, a Savior... the Lord!”

One: Mary treasured these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds then went and told others about the things God had done. Now we have an opportunity to share about how God has been at work in our lives.

† *Hymn*

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

UMH 218

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, by the light of your Holy Spirit in our midst, illuminate our hearts and minds to your Word, which still speaks today. Amen.

Gospel Lesson

John 1:1-14

Autumn Boyer

Choir Anthem

Sermon

“Can I Have a Word?”

Pastor Adam

HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Prayer of Confession

Holy Incarnate God, we confess that we have failed to make room you in our lives. For when we have failed to love our neighbors, when we have failed to love You, when we have not loved ourselves well, and when we have turned a deaf ear to You or to those in need, forgive us. May You be born in us anew, so that others might glimpse you dwelling in the manger of our hearts. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness:

Friends, even when we fail God and each other, God does not fail us. In our brokenness, God turned towards us and became one of us to say, “I am with you.” We are loved. We are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

† *Passing of the Peace*

At this time, you may stand and greet your neighbor with signs of peace.

(Liturgy continues on Service of Word and Table III, UMH 15-16)

You are invited to come and receive the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation and pray at the altar

Prayer following Holy Communion:

Lord, we give You thanks for this Holy Meal in which You have given Yourself as a gift. May it strengthen us to be Your Body in the world and may the incarnation of Your love show forth in our lives. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Wonderful Counselor, we pray for wisdom for our world leaders in governing and

that they would use their powers to lift burdens and end oppression. Prince of Peace, we pray for an end to the war in Ukraine. We lift up those in Ukraine and immigrants who, like the holy family in Bethlehem, suddenly find themselves with “no place for them.” For these and those without shelter this night, provide for them, calm their storm, and wrap them in your sheltering presence. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Word made flesh, we lift up all those whose flesh is suffering by poverty, sickness, or harm of any kind, and we name those people before you now.

(moment of silence to pray)

May your compassion, your presence, and your healing hand rest upon these. As You entered into Your own creation to rescue it, may they experience your saving power and peace. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord who gives us our daily bread, born in “the city of bread,” we lift up those who are hungry. Please bless our gifts of rice, beans, cans of soup, green beans and donations, and those who will be receiving food. Provide a sustainable source of food for them. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The Lord’s prayer

† ***Closing Hymn***

Silent Night, Holy Night

UMH 239

Ushers will hand out candles. A flame will be passed down from the center aisle

† ***Benediction***

† ***Chiming the Trinity***

† ***Postlude***

Announcements

Pastor Adam will be off tomorrow, Thursday, and next week.

Thank you for contributing to our Christmas Mission for Parktown Food Hub!

Parkwood UMC



Latimore, Kelly, “La presentación de Cristo en el templo,” 2018
Kelly Latimore Icons, <https://kellylatimoreicons.com/>

Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 24, 2024 @ 6:30 PM