

Preparing for Worship

Today's worship is meant to be interactive, expressive and intergenerational. We will focus our time around eating and communing together. In the stage area there are materials for hands-on learners with space to spread out. The youth room will serve as a place for quiet reflection. Your tables have paper on which you can draw, color or journal. Snacks on the tables are for anyone who has the munchies before breakfast.

*Please stand in body or spirit. Please silence cell phones.

Welcome

Lydia Mulkey

Gathering as God's People

***Call to Worship and Prayer of Invocation** (singing in unison)

Deborah Kapp

Arise, shine, for your light has come! The glory of God has risen upon us.

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.**

Gloria in excelsis deo; Gloria in excelsis deo.

Tell the good news through all the earth: the saving grace of Jesus Christ is for all.

**Shepherds why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?**

Gloria in excelsis deo; Gloria in excelsis deo.

Come and adore the savior of the nations. Let us offer the gifts of our lives to God.

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee Christ the Lord the newborn King.**

Gloria in excelsis deo; Gloria in excelsis deo.

Loving God, through the birth of your child Jesus,
you have sent a new light into the world.

As we worship today, give us grace
that we might receive Christ's light into our lives,
~~and follow in his path of peace and love. Amen~~

Listening for God's Word to Us

Christmas Carol Medley

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

**Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the savior?
Ask the saved of all the race who have found His favor.**

**Angels sang about His birth, wise men sought and found Him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night, all the hills were ringing.**

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
He is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger.
Son of God, of humble birth, beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth, Hail! the King of glory!

The First Nowell

The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay a keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the king of Israel.
They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the king of Israel.
This star drew nigh to the northwest;
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the king of Israel.

Go Tell It On the Mountain

Refrain

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!
While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Refrain

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our savior's birth.

Refrain

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain

Two Readings from Howard Thurman

Deborah Kapp & Alicia Reese

Silence

Lydia Mulkey

We will spend one minute in silence to rest our bodies and our voices as best as we are able. A bell will ring in the beginning and at the end of the silent time. You are invited to reflect on the poems we hear and sing today.

Sharing

For the next five minutes, you are invited to share at your tables a word or a story that comes to your mind as you reflect on the poems and carols of Jesus' birth. What do you notice? What questions do they bring up?

Christmas Carol: *The Snow Lay on the Ground*

The snow lay on the ground, the stars shone bright,
When Christ our Lord was born on Christmas night.
Venite adoremus Dominum.
Venite adoremus Dominum.
Venite adoremus Dominum.
Venite adoremus Dominum.

'Twas gentle Mary maid, so young and strong, who welcomed here the
Christ-child with a song. She laid him in a stall at Bethlehem;
The ass and oxen shared the roof with them.
Venite adoremus Dominum.
Venite adoremus Dominum.
Saint Joseph, too, was by to tend the child;
To guard him, and protect his mother mild;
The angels hovered round, and sang this song,
Venite adoremus Dominum.
Venite adoremus Dominum.
Venite adoremus Dominum.
And thus that manger poor became a throne;
For he whom Mary bore was God the Son.
O come, then, let us join the heavenly host;
To praise the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Venite adoremus Dominum.
Venite adoremus Dominum.

Breakfast Instructions & Blessing

Deborah Kapp

Sharing a Meal

Prayer of Dedication Alicia Reese

Offering

Offering Carol:

In the Bleak Midwinter (1,3,4)

In the bleak mid-winter, Frosty wind made moan;
Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter, Long ago.
Angels and Archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But His Mother only, in her maiden bliss
Worshipped the Beloved with a kiss.
What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a Shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give Him: Give my heart.

Prayers of Intercession

Deborah Kapp & Lydia Mulkey

Our joys and concerns will be offered aloud this morning, as guided by the ministers. If you would like to record a prayer joy or concern on a pink card, for pastoral prayer later this week, please fill out a card and place it in the prayer basket before you leave.

Clean-Up Instructions

Closing Carol: O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark street shineth, the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,

While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wandering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel.

Charge and Benediction

Alicia Reese

News & Events