

Words to Ponder “The Work of Christmas” by Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
 To find the lost,
 To heal the broken,
 To feed the hungry,
 To release the prisoner,
 To rebuild the nations,
 To bring peace among brothers and sisters,
 To make music in the heart.

Prelude

Elder Dr. Hansonia Caldwell-Harriford

Words of Welcome | +Passing the Peace

Rev. Ann Hayman

Call to Worship

But the angel said to them, “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, who is the Messiah, the Lord.”

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 God favors!”

Unison Gathering Prayer

Son of God, you took on human likeness and became obedient to death: Return to reign over the earth you love.

Savior of the nations, come.

Mary’s child, you made your home with us, and God exalted you:

Shine with the light no night can overcome.

Savior of the nations, come.

Crucified and risen Jesus, your name is above every name:

Bring us to the tree of life for the healing of the nations.

Savior of the nations, come.

Then shall every knee bow in heaven and on earth,

and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God. AMEN.

Opening Carol

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

PH #41

The Lighting of the Advent Candles

The Lehman Family

**Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart.
 (“Wait for the Lord,” Glory to God, #90)**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (unison)

**We come seeking the Christ Child, the one who brings us light.
May the light of the bright star shine in our lives showing us the way
to forgiveness.
Help us to forgive one another. Help us to accept forgiveness.
We welcome newborn love, the one who brings us hope.
May the hope of new birth give us courage and calm all our fears.
Help us to love as we have been loved,
to bring light and love into our world
knowing that God is with us, here, now, and always.**

Assurance of Pardon

The angel tells Joseph that the child forming in Mary’s womb is to be named Jesus. “Call him Jesus,” the angel says, “For he will save the people from their sins.” From his birth through his resurrection, from age to age, Jesus is about salvation. This is good news!
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Isaiah’s Prophecy

Isaiah 9:2-7

Sung Response

“Away in a Manger”

PH #25

Christmas Prayer

Anthem

"O Holy Night"

Chris Tomlin | CeCe Winans

Christmas Story

Luke 2: 1-20

Christmas Message

“Treasured Words”

Rev. Ann Hayman

Hymn of Response

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

PH #23

Pastoral Prayers and the Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Ann Hayman

Call to Giving

(An offering plate has been placed in the back of the sanctuary. Please deposit your gifts there upon coming or going. Thank you!)

Offertory

‘In the Bleak Midwinter’

Rachel Hardy

Prayer of Dedication

Lighting the Candles

(Please tip the unlit candle into the lit candle as the flame is passed.)

Sending Hymn

“Silent Night”

**Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace**

**Silent night, holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia
Christ the Savior is born
Christ the Savior is born**

**Silent night, holy night
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth**

Christmas Blessing