

## WORSHIP GUIDE FOR DECEMBER 24, 2020

### GATHERING MUSIC

- Dana Moody

### THE CHRISTMAS GREETING

- Dr. Tim Hazlett

Tonight, we have come to this place, in the midst of a busy time. We might not even have everything ready at home, yet we have come, because we ourselves need to be ready. May God work in our hearts this night, preparing us for His presence. May God work in our lives that we may reach out to others in comfort and compassion. And may God work in our world that the darkness that has encompassed it may be dispelled by the brightness of God's love and His Gift.

### SPECIAL MUSIC "Somewhere In Your Silent Night" - Dr. Tim Hazlett

### THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND CHRIST CANDLE (responsively) - Brenda Swoope

L: Advent hope moves us;

P: Advent love leads us;

L: Advent joy stirs us;

P: Advent peace stills us, that we might affirm our King Jesus.

L: It is time we set flame to this Advent affirmation by lighting the Christ Candle.

ALL: We believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

He was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea.

He was the long-awaited Messiah whose coming was prophesied.

The same Jesus lives today in our hearts.

He deserves our highest loyalty and total commitment.

In Jesus Christ our hope is fulfilled; our love is consummated; our joy is complete; and our peace is sealed.

L: Rejoice, a Savior is born.

P: A savior is born, indeed. Joy to the world!

### SCRIPTURE READING

**Luke 2:1-20**

About that time Emperor Augustus gave orders for the names of all the people to be listed in record books. <sup>2</sup>These first records were made when Quirinius was governor of Syria.

<sup>3</sup>Everyone had to go to their own hometown to be listed. <sup>4</sup>So Joseph had to leave Nazareth in Galilee and go to Bethlehem in Judea. Long ago Bethlehem had been King David's hometown, and Joseph went there because he was from David's family.

<sup>5</sup>Mary was engaged to Joseph and traveled with him to Bethlehem. She was soon going to have a baby, <sup>6</sup>and while they were there, <sup>7</sup>she gave birth to her first-born son. She dressed him in baby clothes and laid him on a bed of hay, because there was no room for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup> That night in the fields near Bethlehem some shepherds were guarding their sheep. <sup>9</sup> All at once an angel came down to them from the Lord, and the brightness of the Lord's glory flashed around them. The shepherds were frightened. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said, "Don't be afraid! I have good news for you, which will make everyone happy. <sup>11</sup> This very day in King David's hometown a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> You will know who he is, because you will find him dressed in baby clothes and lying on a bed of hay."

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly many other angels came down from heaven and joined in praising God. They said: <sup>14</sup> "Praise God in heaven! Peace on earth to everyone who pleases God."

<sup>15</sup> After the angels had left and gone back to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see what the Lord has told us about." <sup>16</sup> They hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and they saw the baby lying on a bed of hay.

<sup>17</sup> When the shepherds saw Jesus, they told his parents what the angel had said about him. <sup>18</sup> Everyone listened and was surprised. <sup>19</sup> But Mary kept thinking about all this and wondering what it meant.

<sup>20</sup> As the shepherds returned to their sheep, they were praising God and saying wonderful things about him. Everything they had seen and heard was just as the angel had said.

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

**"Mary Did You Know"**

**- Monica Whitehurst**

## **A CHRISTMAS PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (in unison)**

**- Brenda Swoope**

Lord of Light and Hope, our minutes and hours have been swallowed up in preparation for this night and for the coming day. We have been so caught up in the preparations for gatherings and gifting that we have pushed aside the wonder of what you have done for all Creation. Forgive us when we so easily get entangled in our own plans and forget to pay attention to the true event. Help us to relax and listen, instead of rush and shout. May the songs of the angels, the surprise of the shepherds, and the joy of the Holy Family become part of our preparations and our lives. Open our ears, our eyes, our hearts and our spirits to again hear the old, old story, spoken by new voices in new ways. Remind us again of your never-changing love for us. Prepare us to serve you by serving others. This night we offer this prayer of our hearts to you, gracious God. Amen.

## **SERMON**

**- Dr. Tim Hazlett**

### **ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SERMON SERIES: PREPARE YE**

*"Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:12)*

### **"Whoever Takes the Son Gets It All"**

## **A PRAYER OF RESPONSE (in unison)**

**- Dr. Tim Hazlett**

Lord, give Your people Your peace that we may shine brightly in a dark world. Grant us the courage to live faithfully even in the midst of hard times. Let our fear of You be the beginning of wisdom rather than allowing the fear of the world to drive our actions. Help us to embrace our heavenly citizenship and live strangely in the midst of a world that needs to know You. Amen.

## CLOSING CAROL

## “Silent Night”

***[NOTE: As soon as the Facebook Live broadcast has ended those who have gathered In-Person here in the sanctuary will exit using the side door. Please join Dr. Tim and the rest of tonight’s worship team outdoors on the front lawn for the singing of this favorite carol. Please continue to wear your masks and practice social distancing. Candles will be handed to you as you exit the building. Please be sure to return them when we have finished.]***

1. 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.

2. 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!

3. 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.

4. Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

## BENEDICTION

**- Dr. Tim Hazlett**

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. Amen.