

* Denotes that those who are able may stand.

We Gather to Worship God

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Come, people of God. Let us give thanks for these holy Days of Christmas.

People: Here we have come to worship the God of new beginnings and new opportunities.

Leader: Come, people of God. Let us celebrate and rejoice for the wondrous gifts given to us.

People: Here in our worship, we look to the future as we are filled with the gifts of Christmas, love, hope, peace, joy!

Leader: Now we again sing the joyous carols of Christmas and witness to our Savior's birth.

***Opening Hymn** *"Good Christian Friends Rejoice"* **#224**

***Opening Prayer (Unison)**

As we reflect on the lighting of the candles throughout Advent and Christmas, we thank God for the hope he gives us, the peace he bestows, the joy he pours into our hearts, and the love that redeems us and shows us the way. We thank him for his gift of Jesus that thru his light coming into the world it makes it possible for us to rejoice. Let that same, hope, peace and love be fully realized as we worship now and forevermore. Amen

***Passing of the Peace of Christ**

God's Word Through Lessons and Carols

Introduction

First Lesson

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

Genesis 3:8-15

Second Lesson

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 22:15-18

Hymn *"Star Child"* **#2095 v.1,5**

Third Lesson

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Hymn *"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"* **#203 v.1,4**

Fourth Lesson

The preexistent ruler is coming indeed, and in his wake shall flow forth peace and justice throughout all the earth.

Isaiah 11:1-9

Hymn *"He is Born"* **#228 v.1,3**

Fifth Lesson

A visit from the Angel Gabriel.

Luke 1:26-38

Hymn *"The First Noel"* **#245 v.1,2**

Sixth Lesson

The birth of Jesus.

Luke 2:1-7

Hymn *"Infant Lowly"* **#229**

Seventh Lesson

The shepherds go to the manger.

Luke 2:8-16

Hymn *"Love Came Down at Christmas"* **#242**

Eighth Lesson

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

Matthew 2:1-11

Ninth Lesson

John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.

John 1:1-14 *"Sing We Now of Christmas"* **#237 v.1,2,3**

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Moment of Silence

The Lord's Prayer #895

Offering

*Doxology #95

*Offering Prayer

Dear Lord God, we give you thanks for all that you accomplished at the time of Jesus's birth. We thank you for the life you gave him, and through him, for the life you even now give us. As did the wise men, so do we - we offer gifts to him, for his work, for his life, in the world today. Bless us and what we offer - we ask it in Jesus' name. Amen

SENDING FORTH

*Closing Hymn

"O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem"

Insert

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"

#431 v.1

Readers: Ed and Betty Hendricks; Lynn Abbott; Brian Sherwood; Darlene Dobler-Palin; Sheryl, John, Amy and Michelle Rajpolt

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Worship Livestream Zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/96540669674?pwd=OEVTYXdILzBucDR4YzBvdEwvSlkyQT09>

Meeting ID: 965 4066 9674

Passcode: 2819

Dial-in: +1 929 205 6099

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A member of the Eastern Fairfield Cooperative Parish
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Sunday, December 31, 2023

"Growing in the Body of Christ"