

## God Calls for a Response

### **Litany For Christmas:**

The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, Alleluia, Alleluia! Jesus, Son of the living God, splendor of the Father, Light eternal: Glory to you, O Lord! Jesus, King of glory, Son of righteousness, born of the Virgin Mary: Glory to you, O Lord! Jesus, Wonderful Counselor, mighty God, everlasting Lord: Glory to you, O Lord! Jesus, Prince of Peace, Shepherd of souls, perfect in holiness: Glory to you, O Lord! Jesus, Friend of all, Protector of the poor, Treasure of the faithful: Glory to you, O Lord! Jesus, Good Shepherd, inexhaustible Wisdom, our Way, our Truth, and our Life: Glory to you, O Lord! Jesus, joy of the angels, and crown of all the saints: Glory to you, O Lord!

Please allow for silence then continue:

Christ is born! Give him glory! Christ has come down from heaven! Receive him! Christ is now on earth! Exalt him! O earth, sing to the Lord! O you nations, praise him in joy, for he has been glorified!

**Amen.**

### God Sends Us Back into the World to Witness and Serve

**Closing Prayer:** As we wait for your coming again, we are filled with hope in that you create all things new. We are filled with peace in that you bring healing and mercy to all that hurt. We are filled with joy in that you sent your Son to bring us salvation and grace. We are filled with love in that you embrace us and meet us where we are at and never let us go. So as we celebrate this holy night, help us to tell the story to all that we meet and continue to plant the seeds of hope, peace, joy and love as you bring life into the world each and every day!

So let us proclaim Christ is born! Give him glory! Christ is Emmanuel. For God is with us! Let us exalt and sing praises! The Spirit fills us with life! Let us share it with all! Amen!

**Grace and peace be with you! We thank you for coming and worshipping with us tonight! Merry Christmas!**



## Prayer Vigil December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016

“Glorifying God and Reflecting the Love of Jesus Christ to the World.”

## God Calls Us to Be Present in Worship

**As you enter into this worship space, welcome.**

**We are glad that you are here to be a part this special service of prayer. As you prepare your heart and mind for prayer, hear these words from Scripture:**

**Isaiah 9: 2-7:** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

### **Prayer:**

Good and gracious God, on this holy night you gave us your Son, the Lord of the universe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, the Savior of all, lying in a manger. On this holy night draw us into the mystery of your love. Join our voices with the heavenly host that we may sing your glory on high. Give us a place among the shepherds that we may find the one for whom we have waited, Jesus Christ, the Messiah and Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

## God Speaks to Us in Scripture

### **The Birth of Jesus the Messiah**

**18** Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. **19** Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. **20** But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **21** She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” **22** All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

**23** “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”

**24** When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, **25** but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

**In silent reflection, what words or phrases stand out to you as you read the scripture? Why do those words stand out? What emotions of celebration or concern come from reading the Scripture?**

**Reread the scripture. Who do you identify with in this Scripture? What parts of the Scripture helps you see the world today? What message will you share with someone tomorrow?**

**Reread the Scripture. Pray to God what comes to your heart. It could be of thanksgiving, of particular thoughts that come to your mind, it could be in wanting to hear from God, so take the time to listen to God. These are just some examples of prayer, you may also ask the pastor to come and pray with you.**