

Please move to the back of the sanctuary next to the Sound booth. It will be marked as Station #5:

Reflect on preparing to leave this space and enter the world. How will you proclaim the birth of Jesus to the world? How will you share this birth with everyone you meet? How will you live out your life knowing God is with us?

John 1: 1-5: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

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 24th, 2016

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

As you enter into this worship space, welcome.

We are glad that you are here to be a part this special service of prayer. Please go to the left of the stairs and go by our Crying Room to begin at Station #1:

Reflect on how you feel as you come into this space. How was your day, and how do you feel during Christmas Eve and Christmas Day?

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:

Glory to you, almighty God, for you sent your only-begotten Son, that we might have new life. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for you became flesh and dwelt among us that we might become your people. Glory to you, Holy Spirit, for you direct and rule our lives. Glory to you, almighty God, and to your Son, Jesus Christ, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Please move up the side of the sanctuary and go to area next to the chancel in the front of the sanctuary marked Station #2

As you prepare for Christmas Day, why is Christmas important to you and how much time do you devote to making holy space for Christmas?

Luke 2: 8-20: In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." 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 he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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.**

Please move to the Nativity scene that is in the middle of the Chancel. It will be marked as Station #3:

Reflect on what does the birth of Jesus the Christ mean to you. How does this child being born change your life? How is this Good News? What kind of price comes with the birth of this child?

Matthew 1: 18-25: 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. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 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. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Prayer:

Great God of power, we praise you for Jesus Christ, who came to save us from our sins. We thank you for the hope of the prophets, the song of the angels, and the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. We thank you that in Jesus you became flesh and dwelt among us, sharing human hurts and pleasures. Glory to you for your grace-filled love. Glory to you, eternal God; through Jesus Christ, Lord of lords, and King of kings, now and forever. Amen

Please move on to the left of the chancel next to the Christmas tree. It will be marked as Station #4:

Reflect on our response to the birth of Jesus. How do you respond to this birth? What has changed in you because of the birth of Jesus? What are parts of your life do you see Jesus working in your life?

Titus 2: 11-14: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Prayer:

Great God, as you came at night when all was still, so enter our lives this night. Illumine our paths with the light of Christ's presence, that we may clearly see the way before us, the truth to speak, and the life to live for him, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.