

*Kitchissippi United Church
December 24th, 2019
Christmas Eve*

*Welcome to this Christmas Candlelight worship service!
On this special night, we pray that you will find the peace
and joy that faith in God can bring.
The true gift of Christmas is the presence of Jesus among us.
May you and your family have a joyous and Merry Christmas!*

*Indicates please stand in body or spirit
Congregational responses in **BOLD** type.

WE GATHER TOGETHER

PRELUDE *Pastoral Symphony from The Messiah* Handel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT *Jesus the Christ is Born* arr. Donald Patriquin

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING

The Kokole-Yoseke and the Christie families

We light the Christ candle this night,

Along with the candles of faith, compassion, trust and hope.

How can we hold this light in our hearts all year long?

Let us follow the way of Jesus, who's compassion was extended to the leper, the tax collector and all those on the margins of society. All year long, let us have faith and hope, and extend compassion and trust.

(Candles are lit.)

SUNG RESPONSE: *Prepare the way of the Lord* VU10

Prepare the way of the Lord! Prepare the way of the Lord!

Make a straight path for him, make a straight path;

Prepare the way of the Lord! (x2)

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF APPROACH †

Holy people, beloved of God, come. Come to follow the way prepared for you.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth.

..light illuminated. The Christ light will be passed to those on the ends of the pews and then please pass it to one another, acknowledging the Christ light that is in each one of us.)

***HYMN** *Silent Night*

VU 67

***COMMISSIONING**††††

Depart in peace, and take with you the certain knowledge
That God is always coming into the world.

**We will seek God, not in a long ago stable or ancient manger,
But in the people we meet and the depths of our own hearts.**

May the blessing of Christmas make you a blessing to others;

May the peace of the season pervade all that you do.

We will welcome the challenge of discipleship.

We will offer ourselves as God's ministers.

Let us go in love and peace! Amen.

***HYMN** *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

VU 48

SUNG BENEDICTION *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*

POSTLUDE *Hey Ho, Nobody Home!* arr. Donald Patriquin

† From Celebrate God's Presence. Used with permission.

†† Written by Phyllis Flemming. **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2019-2020, page 40. Used with permission.

††† Written by Sheryl Spencer. **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2019-2020, page 41. Used with permission.

†††† Contributed by Jeanyne Slettom. Process and Faith.

*Welcome Preston Charles Dennis Machabee through
baptism this morning. Son of Julien and Kayla Machabee.
Proud Grandparents Karen Anne and Michael Bandler and
Marie Latremouille and Yvon Machabee. Godparents
Jay Hebert and Julia McClintock.*

Once again the earth is surprised at a manger, as the glory of God transforms the commonplace.

Let us go to Bethlehem to see what God has made known to us. Experience the wonder of God's ways. Kneel in awe before life newly borne.

Let us bring glory and praise to God for all that we have seen and heard!

Let us pray together:

O God of angel song, shepherd surprise, stable warmth, and birthing cry: dawn in our darkness, sing through our silence, surprise us with wonder and with joy this holy season. O come to us, Emmanuel. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* **VU 60**

CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM (please see insert)

SUNG RESPONSE *Halle, Halle, Halle* **VU 958**

*Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION††

O Love Incarnate, Word of Truth, be with us all as we meditate on your word for us this night. Help us to receive it and live it out in our lives. In the name of the radiant Christ child, we pray. Amen.

A CHRISTMAS STORY POEM

(The children will be helping tell the Story – watch for what they will be carrying from the narthex to the chancel. All children are welcome to participate by going to the narthex (the back of the sanctuary), where they will be given instructions. If your child would not like to participate but would like to see the nativity scene, please bring them to the front of the church to sit on the carpet in front of the stairs.)

Introduction

Carol – Hail to God's Own Anointed (verses 1 & 2) **VU 30**

Our Journey to Bethlehem

Carol – It Came Upon a Midnight Clear **VU 44**

Jesus is born

Carol – Il est né **VU 50**

The Angels

Carol – Angels We Have Heard on High **VU 38**

The Shepherds

Carol – Away in a Manger **VU 69**

The Wisemen

Carol – What Child is This **VU 74**

Conclusion

Carol – Good Christian Friends Rejoice (verses 1 & 3) **VU 35**

ANTHEM *A Child's Carol* *Donald Patriquin*

WE LISTEN RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERING *Christmas Concerto* *Corelli*

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *Praise God from Whom* **VU 541**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison) †††

Gracious God – take our offerings: what we offer here, what we offer with our time and energy and make them holy. May such light shine from us and from these gifts that all may know of the peace of your kingdom. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

***CANDLELIGHTING**

(We will extinguish every candle and electric light, with only the Christ