
GATHERING

PRELUDE

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Charles W. Ore

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

Rev. Johnson

FAITH IN ACTION

Adult Education

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

**All: The brightness of God's light shines upon all the nations.
All are welcomed to the brightness of God's dawn.**

One: God gathers us from far away and carries us.
With radiant eyes, with rejoicing hearts, we receive the abundance God gives

**All: We respond in praise.
With our gifts, with our very selves, we worship God.**

* HYMN 152

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

God of justice, we confess that our actions are evil whenever we remain passive while others are oppressed;
whenever we guard our own prosperity at the expense of those who are poor;
or when we ignore the cries of those in need of help.

Forgive us, we pray, for hiding in the darkness of this world more than loving the light of your righteousness made known to us in Jesus Christ. Judge us with mercy, we pray, and extend your grace to us.

Strengthen our faithfulness to you and to all who are precious in your sight.
We pray in the name of Christ our light. . .

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

You are invited to greet one another with a sign of the peace God intends for us—saying "The peace of Christ be with you," and responding, "And also with you."

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

He came down that we may have life;
He came down that we may have life;
He came down that we may have life;
Hallelujah forevermore.

This is Hymn 137, He Came Down (HE CAME DOWN).

PROCLAIMING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Linda Strodtman

FIRST READING

Ephesians 1:3–14

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

John 1:1–18

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Ruhf

RESPONDING

* HYMN 108

Of the Father's Love Begotten

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Offertory

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Eugene W. Hancock

* Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

* Prayer of Dedication

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

See Communion Card

SENDING

* HYMN 136

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**All out of darkness we have light,
Which made the angels sing this night;
All out of darkness we have light,
Which made the angels sing this night:
Glory to God in highest heaven;
Peace on earth and good will. Amen.**

This is the stanza 4 of Hymn 112, On Christmas Night All Christians Sing (SUSSEX CAROL).

* POSTLUDE

Puer nobis nascitur

Nicolas Lebegue

** Please rise in body or spirit.*

Those parts of the service of worship in which the congregation participates in word or song are noted in bold type. Large-print bulletins and hymnals are available from the ushers.