

FAIRLAWN CRC
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
DECEMBER 24, 2023 | 5:00 P.M.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Prelude: "Away in a Manger" by Wilbur Held
"O, Holy Night" by Chip Davis
"Angels We Have Heard on High" by Claude H. Bos

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: based on Isaiah 9:6-7, John 8:12

* Hymn: "Once in Royal David's City" PH 346:1,2,5

* God's Greeting: based on Luke 1:46-50

Prayer for Christmas Eve:

Almighty God and Father of light, a child is born for us and a Son is given to us. Your eternal Word leaped down from heaven in the silent watches of the night, and now your church is filled with wonder at the nearness of our God. Open our hearts to receive his life and increase our vision with the rising of dawn, that our lives may be filled with his glory and his peace, for with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns forever. Amen.

Choir: "On Christmas Night" arr. Meadows

CONFESSION AND PRAYER

Call to Confession: based on Luke 2:17-20

Prayer of Confession

Hymn: "How Great Our Joy"

Assurance of Pardon: Luke 2:10-11

Congregational Prayer

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

* Hymn: "Hark, the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes" PH 335

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon: *Christmas Changes Everything* Titus 3:3-8 (p. 1182)

* Hymn: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" PH 340:1,3,4

OUR RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE

Offertory Prayer

*This evening's offerings will be received for the Fairlawn General Fund
and for the Faith Promise Missions Fund.*

*Offerings may be placed in the baskets at the back of the sanctuary
as you leave, be mailed to the church, or given online.*

Confession of Faith:

Our World Belongs to God §1,23,56

(PH p. 1019, 1026, 1038)

Choir: "Sweet Child of Bethlehem"

arr. Raney

SERVICE OF LIGHT

The Coming of the Light in Jesus Christ

Hymns: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

"What Child Is This"

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

* Benediction:

* Hymn: "Joy to the World"

PH 337:1,4

* Postlude:

**Indicates congregation stands, as able*

Minister: Rev. Joel Vande Werken

Candle Lighters: Justin Conrad, Ava Conrad

Liturgists: Amanda Conrad, Lisa Foppema

Piano: Terry Ebbeling | Organ: Lisa Vos

Brass: Vos Family | Strings: Peggy Kuipers-Sawyer

Choir Director: Laurie Vander Baan

Prayer for Christmas Eve adapted from Liturgy of the Hours

Prayer of Confession adapted from Worship Sourcebook E.2.2.6

Benediction from Worship Sourcebook E.9.2.2

WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE ALL OF OUR SMALLEST CHILDREN TO CLOSE THE SERVICE WITH US. PARENTS ARE ASKED TO PICK THEIR CHILDREN UP FROM THE NURSERY DURING "O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL" SO THEY CAN EXPERIENCE THE CANDLE LIGHTING WITH THEIR FAMILIES.