

Worship for the Eve of Christmas

Altavista Presbyterian Church - December 24, 2008

Greetings The Lord be with you this night. And also with you.

The Word become flesh and dwelt among us,
full of grace and truth. We have beheld his glory! - John 1:14

Prelude Ave Maria Traditional

During the prelude, let us prayerfully prepare ourselves for worship.

Lighting the Advent Candles - The Christ Candle

The Roark Family: Chip, Jenny, Georgie, Holly & John

Call to Worship

Sing a new song, all the earth, for God's gift of light and love.

*Bless God's name and proclaim God's salvation
"Glory to God in the highest."*

Unto us a child is born; in a manger the grace of God appears.

*The baby, for whom there was no room,
welcomes us to honored places in God's family.*

Declare God's marvelous works;
honor God with your thanksgiving and praise.

*We rejoice in Christ's coming and give thanks
for the love God reveals through Him.*

Prayer for the Evening Rev. Button

* Carol Watchmen, Tell Us of the Night Hymnal #20

Prayer for the Eve of Christmas

First Lessons Isaiah 9:2-7, 42:1-4

The prophet announces the birth of the coming Messiah,
God's beloved Servant, who will establish justice on the earth.

Carol Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus Hymnal #2

Second Lesson Matthew 1:18-23

The angel greets Joseph, a descendent of King David, telling of God's
fulfillment of scripture by bringing forth a promised son.

Children's Anthem Away in a Manger

Special Story for Children Christmas at Sea Rev. Button

Third Lesson Luke 1:26-38

The angel greets the virgin Mary, telling of God's presence with her
and of the promised child she will soon deliver.

Choral Anthem The Promised One Smith

Fourth Lesson Luke 2:1-7

Amid the politics of the surrounding world, Jesus is quietly born.

Carol What Child Is This Hymnal #53

Fifth Lesson Matthew 2:1-12

Some time after the birth, and amid political complexity, sages from the
east travel to find the baby and worship him with gifts.

Meditation Rev. Button

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Prayers of Thanksgiving ♦ Lord's Prayer
Words of Institution and Welcome
Gathering at the Lord's Table to Feast

Sixth Lesson John 1, selected passages

The light of the Eternal Word shines in the darkness of the world,
and the darkness did not overcome it.

Choir Anthem O Holy Night

Lighting of our Candles from the Christ Candle

Prior to having your candle lit, you are invited to don your coats
and gather your belongings, in preparation for moving outside.

* Carol Silent Night, Holy Night Bulletin

After singing verse 1, the congregation will silently process outside
singing verses 2-4, and for a prayer and benediction.

* Prayer for Christmas Day

* Benediction

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