

December 24, 2007

7:30 & 11:00 p.m.

## Christmas Eve Candlelighting Service

---

---

### THE PRELUDE

### GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Welcome! Please sign your name and address in the Friendship Register.)

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE:** 7:30 *Ben Franklin with Lena & Amanda*  
11:00 *Chuck, Wynne, Mary Paige, & Addie Rodgers*

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** “*Light of Peace*” Raney  
**Light of peace, calm our despair. Light of hope, lift us up when we fall. Light of joy, brighten our days; Light of love, teach us your ways.**

**THE CALL TO WORSHIP:** (from Isaiah 9:2,6-7)

The people who walk in darkness have seen a great Light.

**Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.**

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.**

He will establish the throne of David forevermore.

**He will uphold it with justice and with righteousness from generation to generation.**

The Lord himself has chosen the sign: a child has been born to Mary.

**She has called his name Emmanuel.**

God is with us. O come let us adore him.

**Glory to God, all glory in the highest!**

\***HYMN 41** *“O Come All Ye Faithful”* Wade

### \*OUR PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty and awesome God, we confess that we are afraid to feel the wonder of this night, afraid to believe the good news that Emmanuel has truly come to us. We cannot imagine why you would be willing to actually live here, among us—a people divided against ourselves, clinging stubbornly to the values of a broken world. We don't want to bow down to any power, let alone before the innocence of a child in a manger. We hesitate to embrace the joy, lest it turn to disappointment in the hard realities of this world. Forgive us Lord God. Have mercy upon us, and awaken the child within us we pray. Fill us with hope that we, too, can find new life in this Christ child and live in the light of your love and mercy.**

\***GLORIA #23 Refrain** *Gloria, in excelsis Deo, Gloria, in excelsis Deo* French carol

### \*PASSING THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you.**

