

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS  
CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2013

7:00 P.M.

**Silent Prayer of Preparation**

*Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light. May that light illuminate our hearts and shine in our words and deeds. May the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love represented by the birth in Bethlehem this night fill our lives and become part of all that we say and do. May we share the divine life of your son Jesus Christ even as he humbled himself to share our humanity. Amen.*

**PRELUDE AND CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**CHORAL INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**\*HYMN NO. 123**

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

**DOXOLOGY**

**IN THE BEGINNING**

*Genesis 3:14-15; Genesis 12:1-3; II Samuel 7:11-14; Psalm 89:26-29*

**\*HYMN NO. 88**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

**THE PROPHETS**

*Isaiah 7:13-14; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Isaiah 11:1-5; Micah 5:2, 4-5a*

**HYMN NO. 115**

*Away in a Manger*

*(please remain seated)*

**THE BIRTH**

*John 1:1-5, 9; Luke 2:1,4-14; Matthew 2:1-2,11*

**Choir**

*The First Noel*

**CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHTING**

**Don Inazu Family**

**SOLO**

**O Holy Night**

**Jim Hutton**

**INVITATION**

**PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*(Instructions on back)*

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**THE PROMISE**

*John 3:11, 4:7-15*

**\*HYMN NO. 122**

*Silent Night! Holy Night!*

**LIGHTING OF CANDLES**

*(The congregation will light our candles as we sing. The minister will light his candle from the Advent wreath. The ushers will then light their candles from his, then move down the aisles lighting the candle of the nearest person until all are burning. Candles should be extinguished following the benediction.)*

*Bell tolls twelve times*

**\*HYMN NO. 134 (verse 1)**

*Joy to the World*

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*\*those who are able may stand.*

*(Announcements - see reverse)*

*get our act together. Quickly now, before another surprise knocks us off our feet!*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMUNION** – *This evening we will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion by coming forward, row by row, taking the Bread, dipping it into the Cup and eating immediately. Then we shall return to our seats. The Bread and Cup remind us of the body of our Lord and the covenant in His blood.*

**THANK YOU** to the Don Inazu family for serving as our Advent Candlelighters this evening.

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO** our readers, Katie Bevins, Sarah Bird, Rebecca Buchanan and to Jim Hutton, Michael Colston, Andy Cumbow, and the Glade Spring Choir for enriching our worship with their musical gifts.

**THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING** taken this evening will be used in the Deacons Fund to help those in need in our area and the transient. Part of these monies will go to set up short stay apartments for those who are stranded on the road or due to loss of home. This will be done in partnership with other Glade Spring churches.

### Reflections.... Surprise After Surprise (Anonymous)

*Surprise builds on top of surprise. Just when the shepherds thought they had seen it all, behold, a whole host of angels appeared in the night sky over greater Bethlehem. This is how it is with God's love – one surprise after the other. If the shepherds reflected at all on their lives in those moments of sheer terror, they might have felt empty-handed. They had neither defense nor bribe for the divine forces assaulting their vision. They had little to show for their lives, little they could offer up to God. They didn't know that their empty hands were of no consequence to God – God loves us in spite of our poverty and poverty of spirit. When we take an honest appraisal of our lives, it becomes painfully clear that on a daily basis we fall far short of God's expectations. Yet, in spite of all that, God loves and forgives and makes us whole. That is the biggest surprise of all, and this is why this season is such a gift! It is a precious and holy time in which God allows us to*