

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023



**First Christian Church
Peoria, Illinois**

Expecting Light
Christmas Eve Worship
December 24, 2023

Gathering

Prelude – *Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring* – Bach/Biggs

Call to Worship

Leader: On this holiest of nights,
People: We come, joining the shepherds, who were filled with wonder.
Leader: On this most silent night,
People: We come, our hopes and dreams, joining those of Mary and Joseph.
Leader: On this night of carols and candlelight.
People: We come, our glad songs joining, with the choirs of angels over us.
Leader: For God is with us. Let us join in worship this holy night.

Opening Song *O Come, All Ye Faithful* #148

Opening Prayer

ALL: Lord, we praise you for the great wonders you have sent us: for a shining star and angel’s song, for an infant’s cry in the lowly manger. We praise you for the Word made flesh in a little Child. We behold his glory, and are bathed in its radiance. Along with the shepherds, innkeeper, and wise men, we kneel before you with love and gratitude. We thank you for the gift of Jesus. It is in his name we pray. Amen.

Children’s Message – Hannah Fitch

The Light Comes Into the World

The Prophecy – Isaiah 11:1-9

Carol *Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming* #160

Mary – Luke 1:26-38

Carol *Breath of Heaven* Words on screen

Joseph – Matthew 1:18-23

Special Music – Sanctuary Choir *A Song In The Air* – Joel Raney

Jesus’ Birth – Luke 2:1-7

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Carol *Candle Carol* Words on screen

The Shepherds – Luke 2:8-15

Carol *Angels We Have Heard on High* #155

The Wise Men – Matthew 2:1-2,7-11

Carol *We Three Kings* vss. 1-4 #172

Reflection

Responsive Reading – When The Time Had Fully Come

Sharing the Light

Offering – *Cradle Song* – Kirkpatrick/Wilson

Carol *O Little Town of Bethlehem* #144

Lighting of Candles *Silent Night, Holy Night* #145

Benediction

Closing Carol *Joy to the World* #143

Postlude – *The Joy of Christmas* – arr. Smith

Merry Christmas!