

IN THE NAME OF THE ONE WHO HAS COME, WELCOME to worship on this very special night. The promise of pregnancy - cautious, hopeful, anxious - has given way to the fulfillment of The Child's presence - joyful, exciting, thankful. We pray that we will not just come to church tonight and view The Child through the glass partition but that we will receive The Child into our lives and agree to take The Child home with us.

The SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION WITH CANDLELIGHTING

PRELUDE "The Shepherd's Farewell" Hector Berlioz
"King Jesus hath a Garden" Dutch Carol
"In the Bleak Midwinter" Gustav Holst
"Ding Dong, Merrily on High" French Carol
"Still, Still, Still" German Carol

***HYMN 270** "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" MENDELSSOHN

*THE GREETING Page 138

*PRAYER OF THE DAY (in unison)

Pastor: Almighty God,
All: **you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD OF WELCOME Bud Stanton

FIRST LESSON - Isaiah 52: 7-10 "The Lord has comforted his people."

***HYMN 289** "Angels We Have Heard on High" (vs 1) GLORIA

SECOND LESSON - Hebrews 1:1-4 "He has spoken to us by a Son."

***HYMN 283** "O Come All Ye Faithful" ADESTE FIDELES

*THE HOLY GOSPEL - John 1: 1-14 "Good tidings of great joy."

SERMON "The Imprint of God" Pastor Bair

***HYMN 282** "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" CAROL

*THE NICENE CREED Page 104

***HYMN 300** "The First Noel" (vss 1 & 2) THE FIRST NOWELL

*THE PRAYERS - A CHRISTMAS LITANY

Unto us a Child is born.
Christ is born today!
Unto us a Son is given.
Christ is born today!
Glory to God in the highest,
And peace to His people on earth!

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION Page 143

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Whence is that Goodly Fragrance Flowing?"
French Carol, arr. Willcocks

*THE PRAYER Page 144

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING Page 144

*Holy, Holy, Holy Page 144

*Eucharistic Prayer

After the Words of Institution

Pastor: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

**All: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Pastor: With this bread and cup...
With hope for his coming.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: Holy God...peace on earth.

All: Come, Holy Spirit

*Lord's Prayer "Our Father, who art..." Page 145

**"Lamb of God" Page 146

*THE COMMUNION

Music during Communion "O Holy Night" Adolphe Adam
Deborah Montgomery-Cove, soprano

*THE BLESSING Page 146

THE CANDLELIGHTING "Of the Father's Love Begotten"
Divinum Mysterium

The electric lights in the nave will be turned off to symbolize the darkness of the world into which The Light has come. The Light will come to you from the Paschal Candle via ushers with candles in the center aisle, and then out the pews. To receive the Light, tilt your unlighted candle into the flame of the lighted candle. To share the Light, HOLD YOUR LIGHTED CANDLE UPRIGHT and allow the unlighted candle to lean into the Light. THE LIGHTED CANDLE IS NEVER TILTED because symbolically, The Light does not bow to the darkness.

*GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION - John 1:1-14

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth"

***HYMN 281** "Silent Night, Holy Night" STILLE NACHT

A moment of silence for reflection and prayer.

*BENEDICTION

Please extinguish your candle after the benediction.

***HYMN 267** "Joy to the World" ANTIOCH

POSTLUDE "Noel" Louis-Claude Daquin

**Please stand for this part of the liturgy or remain seated as you need.*

PLEASE RETURN YOUR CANDLES to the box at the door.

Did you know this about Christmas

THE CELEBRATION of Christmas spread from Rome throughout Europe and was brought to this country by the settlers and missionaries. In New England, however, the zeal of the Puritans down-played the holiday. There Christmas remained outlawed until the second half of the 1800's, when Christians in great numbers arrived from Ireland and Germany bringing their celebrations including: the tree (Germany) and lights in windows (Gaelic).

NAMES. One of the original Latin names for Christmas is The Nativity. Many languages follow: La Navidad (Spanish), Karacsony (Hungarian), Boze Narodzenie (Polish), Rozhdestvo Khrista (Russian and Ukrainian). The French "Noel" comes from the Latin "natalis" (birthday) or from "nowel"(news). "Christmas" comes from "Christ's Mass", the worship on that day. The German "Weihnacht(en)" means "blessed (or holy) night."

THANKS: to all who helped decorate the church for the season. To Steve and Tammy Devlen for their wonderful building – and people – care. To Erik Kibelsbeck and choir for their gifts. To Jim and Betta Hedlund for arranging for the tree in the narthex.

GREETING. As originally used, the word "merry" did not denote "joyful, hilarious" but rather "blessed, peaceful, pleasant." The people of this community of faith wish you and yours a very "Blessed, peaceful and pleasant Christmas."



THANK YOU TO THE CHOIR, and Deborah Montgomery-Cove for their musical leadership in this service.

THE POINSETTIAS. You may take your plant after the service tonight.

FAITH AND CARE: USHERS: Mehravari Family **GREETERS:** Mehravari Family; **ASSISTING MINISTER:** Jeff Snedeker; **ACOLYTE:** John & Katie Peterson; **READER:** Katie Peterson & Mehravari family member.

NEXT SUNDAY: St. John, Evangelist at 10:45 am; Holy Communion. A relaxed form of lessons & carols for Christmas. **Sunday Church School and Adult Forum** will not meet on December 27 or January 3.

ST. LUKE MINISTERS:

The People of this Community

ST. LUKE STAFF:

Rick L. Bair	[rlb8@cornell.edu]	(h) 387-3479 Pastor
Erik Kibelsbeck	[ekibelsbeck@ithaca.edu]	Music Director
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CHRISTMAS EVE

9:00 service

First Lesson:

ISAIAH 52:7-10

7. How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him that bringeth
good tidings, that publisheth peace;
that bringeth good tidings of good, that
publisheth salvation; that saith unto
Zion, Thy God reigneth!

8. Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice;
with the voice together shall they sing:
for they shall see eye to eye, when the
Lord shall bring again Zion.

9. Break forth into joy, sing together,
ye waste place of Jerusalem:
For the Lord hath comforted his people,
he hath redeemed Jerusalem.

10: The Lord had made bare his holy
arm in the eyes of all the nations; and
all the ends of the earth shall see the
salvation of our God.

Second Lesson:

HEBREWS 1:1-4

1. God, who at sundry times and in
divers manners spake in time past
unto the fathers by the prophets,

2. Hath in these last days spoken unto
us by his Son, whom he hath appointed
heir of all things, by whom also he made
the worlds;

3. Who being the brightness of his glory,
and the express image of his person,
and upholding all things by the
word of his power, when he had by
himself purged our sins, sat down on the
right hand of the Majesty on high;

4. Being made so much better than the
angels, as he hath by inheritance
obtained a more excellent name than they.