



10 o'clock Worship

We hope you will sense our vision for Greater Faith, Deeper Relationships, and Stronger Community as you worship with us.

PRELUDE

The prelude music is a time of worship offering praise to God as well as giving each of us an opportunity to prepare our hearts for worship. Please use this time to pray, meditate and reflect on how God might speak to you during the service this morning.

WELCOME

- ✝ “Angels We Have Heard on High” —*Gloria*
*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES | Jack Booker

CANDLE OF HOPE | Isaiah 64:1-3

In the midst of our own encounters with uncertainty and upheaval and our longing for deliverance, Jesus calls to us, “Therefore, keep awake— for you do not know when the master of the house will come.”

People: *We wait as people surprised again and again by God who shakes us out of our complacency and wakes us up to the work of God's realm all around us.*

We light this candle as a sign of our shocking hope. May we stay awake to God's activity in the world as we wait in expectation that even now, God is with us, working to restore us to the fullness of life with God and one another. Amen.

RESPONSE: *O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

CANDLE OF PEACE | Isaiah 40:1

We who gather today also seek comfort and peace, yet we are unsatisfied with ideas of peace that tell us to keep quiet and go with the flow. We long for real peace, true peace, just peace.

People: *We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all.*

We light this candle as a sign of God's just peace. May it be a beacon calling us to repent and to live the good news of Jesus Christ as we wait and watch and labor for the day when all people can gather together to worship and glorify God. Amen.

RESPONSE: *True God from true God, Light from light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; very God, begotten, not created!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

Today's Worship Participants

Rev. Terri Thorn
Associate Pastor

Jack Booker
Andrew Hart
Liturgists

Pavel Polanco-Safadit
Piano

Leah Crane
Vocalist

Jim Babcock
Barbara Babcock
Randy Green
Jacquie Green
Gavin Green
Readers

CANDLE OF JOY | Isaiah 61:1-3a

We come today as people who are also surrounded by suffering and grief. And yet, the Spirit hovers among us, tending and anointing, inspiring freedom where there is captivity, declaring blessing in places the world has cursed, and igniting fierce joy where mourning and heartache prevail.

People: *We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy that sustains our life as God's people.*

We light this candle as a sign of our fierce joy. May our lives shine with the fierce, tenacious joy of the Light who lives in our hearts as we wait and work for the coming of God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

RESPONSE: *Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

CANDLE OF LOVE | Luke 1:46-49

We, like Mary, hear God's call to be part of making God's dream for our salvation and flourishing a reality, and we question, "How can this be? I am only..." Yet, like Mary, the "onlys" that make us hesitate are gifts God can and will use as God's love transforms us into bearers of good news.

People: *We wait as people who have encountered divine Love that disrupts the status quo and ushers us into abundant life marked by mutual love and peace that flows from the flourishing of all people.*

We light this candle as a sign of the love that transforms us. May love grow within us, transforming us into bold witnesses of God's salvation with our voices and our lives. Amen.

RESPONSE: *Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

THE CHRIST CANDLE | Isaiah 9:2 and 6

On This Christmas Eve morning, we come seeking hope, peace, joy, and love, and we find these things in a child. God made flesh as a baby in a manger. A baby who is both the beginning and the end of our salvation, who dwells with us even now, our Emmanuel, God with us.

People: *We live as people in the in-between who celebrate the arrival of the Light that shines in lost and broken places as we wait for the day when we will live in the fullness of God's kingdom.*

We light this candle as a sign of Jesus Christ, our wondrous Light. May the Light burning in our hearts guide us, comfort us, protect us, and tend us in all seasons and circumstances, reminding us that day and night, in the light and in the darkness, God is with us. Our salvation has come! Amen.

✝ **OPENING CAROL #119 | "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" —Mendelssohn**

CALL TO CONFESSION | Andrew Hart

Together, let us confess the sins that have kept us from glorifying and enjoying our God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We are not always prepared, O God, to receive the Christ child into our hearts. We do not always look to see your light shining in the darkness of the world. We are reluctant to leave our "flocks" behind and search for the glory you reveal. Overcome our fear, Holy One, and inspire us to sing with the heavenly host as we seek the Christ child this morning. Prepare our



OFFERING INFORMATION

If you would like to bring your offering to church on Sunday mornings, we have offering boxes available in both the 34th Street Narthex and Bell Tower Entrance to the Sanctuary. Extra envelopes are also available. Feel free to drop off your offering either before or after worship. Thanks for your continued support of the ministry and mission of Tab!

Text TABPRES to 73256.

TAB'S BENEVOLENCE & COMMUNITY CARE FUNDS

Did you know that Tab has two distinct funds set up to support individuals and families during difficult times? Tab's Deacon Benevolence & Community Care Funds allow us as a church family to come alongside people with immediate, significant needs inside and outside the church. Please reach out to the church if you or someone you know is in need.

If you are a member or friend of Tab in need, please email Finance Director, Kristine Green at kristine.green@tabpres.org for more information and confidential application procedures.

If you know of one of our neighbors in need, let them know they can call the **Community Care line at 317-805-1281** for an appointment.

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The easiest and most effective way to receive news about our church and church family is to subscribe to our emails.

We send out a digest every Friday, with updates as-needed at other times.

To subscribe, go to tabpres.org, then scroll to the bottom of the homepage and tap “Sign up for email updates.”

hearts, O God, to behold your precious gift in awe and wonder. We pray together and in the silence of our hearts in the name of the one born this day, Jesus Christ...

SILENT CONFESSION AND PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. Believe the Good News and be at peace.

All: *In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!*

✠ **CAROL #113** | “Angels We Have Heard on High” —*Gloria*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE | Rev. Terri Thorn

The First Christmas Tree: A Legend from Long Ago —*Helen Haidle*

SPECIAL MUSIC | “What a Beautiful Name” —*Hillsong Music*

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING | [Luke 2:1-14](#) (*pcw Bible page 832*)

MESSAGE | Rev. Terri Thorn

What Else Can We Say

With a reading of “God’s Daring Plan” by Barbara Brown Taylor

TIME OF SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

CAROL #122 | “Silent Night, Holy Night!” —*Stille Nacht*

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER | Rev. Terri Thorn

✠ **CLOSING CAROL #115** | “Away in a Manger” —*Mueller*

✠ **CHARGE AND BLESSING**

✠ **POSTLUDE**

✠ *Please stand if able.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS WITH TAB

“*Christmas With Tab*,” featuring the Sanctuary Choir, airs again on Christmas Day at 3p on your local WHMB 40.1. (*Check your cable or satellite guide for your specific channel number.*)

2023 YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS

SUN, DEC 31, is the final day to receive contributions in the Finance Office for credit to your 2023 giving statement. Checks dated, postmarked and sent via the US Mail on or before DEC 31 will be credited as 2023 giving even if received in 2024. Online giving must have a DEC 31 processing date for credit in 2023.

JOIN US FOR *Christmas* AT TAB

SUN, DEC 24—CHRISTMAS EVE

5p | Family Christmas Eve Service (*Nursery available for children two and under*)
8p | Candlelight Christmas Service (*No childcare available*)

MON, DEC 25—CHRISTMAS DAY

Church Office Closed

FRI, DEC 29

12 NOON | Church Office Closed

SUN, DEC 31—NEW YEAR’S EVE

10a | **Worship in the Sanctuary** (*No Education Hour; early childcare is available in the Preschool RM*)

MON, JAN 1 — NEW YEAR’S DAY