



**CHRISTMAS CAROLS, COMMUNION AND  
CANDLELIGHT**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2023**

**PERRY CHRISTIAN CHURCH**





#### PRELUDE:

Bonnie Berry

#### CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: The Prophet Isaiah said: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.

P: O Come, O Come Emmanuel!

L: The Priest Zechariah said before John's birth: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

P: O Come, O Come Emmanuel!

L: The Evangelist John said: What has come into being in him was life and the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

P: O Come, O Come Emmanuel!

L: God is with us! God is coming into our lives in a new way. The birth of the Christ child is the renewal of hope and a reminder that Christ will come again.

All: O Come, O Come Emmanuel!

**OPENING HYMN** "O Come, O Come Emmanuel!" #169

#### INVOCATION:

Gracious God, with joy and thanksgiving we gather as your people. We have come to hear again the timeless story of Christ's birth. In the excitement of this night, quiet our hearts that we may know the peace and fullness of this holy time.

Shine, O Light, in the darkness of our world. Sing, O angels, in the stillness of our hearts, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those God favors." This we pray in the name of the Child of Bethlehem. Amen

**Andrew Holmes and Company**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES** Utterback Family

The Old Testament Prophecies-Tanner Eisele  
Micah 5:2

Hymn "O, Little Town of Bethlehem" #178

The Isaiah Prophecy-Terry Davis  
Isaiah 9:6-7

Hymn "Angels We Have Heard On High" #192

The New Testament Beginning with Matthew-Greg Harrison  
Matthew 1:18-24

Hymn "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" #168

The Christmas Story Told by St. Luke-Alisha Eisele  
Luke 1:26-38

Hymn "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" #194

Mary Visits Elizabeth-Laura Cowan  
Luke 1:39-45

Hymn "What Child Is This?" #180

The Magnificat-Nancy Seelow  
Luke 1:46-56

"Ave Maria" Arlen

The Birth of Jesus-Carol Norman  
Luke 2:1-7

Hymn "Away In A Manger" #185

Children's Moment Leanne Reed

The Angels and the Shepherds-Jim Gay  
Luke 2:8-14

Hymn "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" #184

The Shepherds Respond-Jim Bair  
Luke 2:15-20

Hymn "The First Noel" #179



## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Merciful God, we confess that often we find darkness more comfortable than light. We confess that we find your Good News frightening and unsettling, especially when we consider its demands as well as its promises. We confess that Christmas has become more to us than the birthday of the Christ Child. Forgive us, break us, bend us, remake us. Give us the courage to lay ourselves open to the wonder and healing of your coming. Be born again into our world, be born again into our hearts and lives. Hear our confessions as we pray the prayer Jesus taught us saying....Our Father....who art in Heaven....Amen.

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### COMMUNION PRAYER

### RECEIVING OF COMMUNION AND DISTRIBUTION OF CANDLES

### HOMILY

Eric Holmes

### CLOSING HYMN "Silent Night, Holy Night"

### PASTORAL PRAYER

### BENEDICTION

(After the benediction, please extinguish your candle and leave it in the basket)

