

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

December 24, 2016

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF *GOD*

Welcome, Announcements, and Greeting Time

The Prelude “A Christmas Potpourri” *by James Mansfield*

*Opening Songs “Once in Royal David’s City” Hymn 183

*A Call to Worship

Leader: Jesus Christ is the Light of the World. Christ comes to dispel the darkness, to give us life, and to shine as a beacon of salvation to the world.

Christ's light is an eternal flame that sets ablaze hope, peace, joy and love in the heart of every believer. Let us celebrate Emmanuel, God with us, the Light of the World!

Jesus says, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).

We light the Christ Candle this Christmas Eve, proclaiming that Christ, the Light of the World, cannot be hidden, cannot be extinguished and cannot be overcome, for our Savior born this day comes to conquer evil, sin and death for all time.

*A Carol “O Come All Ye Faithful” Hymn 182

*A Bidding Prayer and 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and glory, forever.

*A Carol “Joy to the World” Hymn 179

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF THE LORD

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 9:2-7

A Carol “O Little Town of Bethlehem” Hymn 180

New Testament Epistle Reading Titus 2:11-14

A Carol “Angels We Have Heard on High” Hymn 188

A Carol “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” Hymn 189

Christmas Offering

Special Music “O Holy Night” Amy Cripe and Brice Smith

*Scripture and Prayer of Illumination Luke 2:1-20

Message: “The Missing Characters & Creatures”
The Reverend Doctor Ivan E. Greuter, Senior Minister

A Carol “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” Hymn 221

THE SERVICE OF THE TABLE OF THE LORD

Invitation to the Lord’s Table – The Lord’s Table is open to any person who has accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior and been baptized. Membership in our church is not required to partake of the elements. Please hold each element until everyone is served, then we will feast together.

†Servers Prepare for the Table of the Lord

*A Carol “A Communion Hymn for Christmas”

The Lord’s Supper – Breaking of Bread & Passing of the Cup

*A Carol “Away in a Manger” Hymn 203

RESPONDING IN FAITH & SERVICE

†**Candlelight Ceremony** - Ushers will distribute small, individual candles with drip protectors to worshipers to light before we sing, "Silent Night." This is an important religious tradition in the Christian church symbolizing Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5:14 – "You are the light of the world." Please keep lighted candles upright, and tip the unlighted candles to transfer the flames.

***A Carol** "Silent Night" Hymn 186

***Closing Prayer & Spoken Benediction**

***Postlude** "Silent Night" *arranged by Jim Brickman*



MISSION: The vision of West Side Baptist Church shall be that we commit ourselves to continual personal growth, reaching out to win and nurture others in the love of Jesus Christ

West Side Baptist Church
An American Baptist Church USA
www.abc-usa.org

CHRISTMAS EVE



WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

1008 SW Fourth Street | Topeka, KS 66606
Phone: (785) 233-4241 | office@wsbctopeka.org
www.wsbctopeka.org