



WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH
1008 SW Fourth Street | Topeka, KS 66606
Phone: (785) 233-4241 | www.wsbctopeka.org

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION CELEBRATION SERVICE

“LET THERE BE LIGHT!”

December 24, 2025

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP: On this holy night, we gather to celebrate the Light that has dawned in the darkness, for “a child has been born for us” (Isaiah 9:6). The angels’ song in the Gospel reminds us that God’s glory is revealed in humble places, bringing peace and hope to all people. As we worship, may our hearts rejoice in the grace of God made visible in Jesus Christ, who is Immanuel (God with Us), the Savior of the world.

THE PRELUDE

Joanna Cunningham, Pianist

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Doctor Ivan E. Greuter

OPENING CAROL #199 “O Come All Ye Faithful” *ADESTE FIDELES

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

All the gods of the people are idols.
But the LORD made the heavens.

Hear, O nations, of the glory of God!

Worship the LORD in holy splendor.

Let all the earth tremble at the presence of the LORD.

Hear, O nations: the LORD our God reigns!

Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised.

The LORD is to be revered above all gods.

Hear, O nations: God is coming!

The LORD is coming to judge the earth!

Adapted from Timothy Matthew Slemmons, “Lightning from the East Liturgical Elements for Reformed Worship, Year A,” © 2014, Cascade Books, Eugene, Oregon. Used with permission.

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE & PRAYER

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

LEADER: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.

PEOPLE: We come to worship, rejoicing in the light of Christ, yet we confess that we have not always lived as children of the light.

LEADER: Sing to the Lord a new song; declare God’s glory among the nations and God’s salvation from day to day.

PEOPLE: Forgive us, O God, when our praise grows quiet and our witness fades.

LEADER: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, calling us to live lives of goodness, hope, and devotion.

PEOPLE: Renew us by your grace. Shape us into people eager to do good and faithful in love.

LEADER: Do not be afraid, for see—I bring you good news of great joy for all the people.

PEOPLE: Forgive our fear and doubt. Fill us with wonder, peace, and joy as we welcome Christ anew.

LEADER: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those whom God favors.

PEOPLE: Come, Lord Jesus. Receive our worship and make your home among us. Amen.

WE HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

TO US A CHILD IS BORN: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian’s defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their

oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this. **Isaiah 9:2-7**

CAROL #205

"Away in a Manger"

MUELLER

THE BIRTH OF JESUS: In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. **Luke 2:1-7**

A CAROL #196

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

ST LOUIS

THE SHEPHERDS AND THE ANGELS: And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." **Luke 2:8-14**

A CAROL #192

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

MENDELSSOHN

A CAROL #184

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

GLORIA

THE SHEPHERDS BECOME EYEWITNESSES: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. **Luke 2:15-20**

A CAROL #182

“Go! Tell It on the Mountain”

SPIRITUAL

***THE GOSPEL: The Word Became Flesh** - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. **John 1:1-14**

SPECIAL MUSIC “Mary, Did You Know?”

The Smith Singers

THE MESSAGE

**“The Inextinguishable Light in the Darkness”
The Rev. Dr. Ivan E. Greuter, Senior Minister**

A CAROL #194

“O Holy Night”

THE TABLE OF THE LORD | HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S SUPPER—The Table of the Lord Jesus Christ is **OPEN** to all people, regardless of age, creed, race, or church membership. All who profess faith in Jesus and love him with undying love are invited to partake in this memorial meal commemorating our Messiah's life, death, resurrection, ascension, and promised return. We only serve nonalcoholic grape juice in solidarity with those overcoming addictions. Please hold each element until everyone is served; then, we will feast together. **†Servers Prepare for the Table of the Lord**

A CAROL

“I Wonder as I Wander”

NILES

Words of Institution 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, the power, and the glory forever.

**The Breaking of Bread
The Sharing of the Cup**

THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING – We will receive a Christmas Offering for the work of God in the neighborhood, city, nation, and world. Please give generously as the Lord enables you. You can give online or use an envelope available in the pews.



A CAROL #198 **“What Child Is This?”** *GREENSLEEVES*

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RESPONDING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT IN FAITH

†THE CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY—Ushers have distributed individual candles and wax protectors to worshipers before the service. Please be careful, as the flame and wax are hot! The Minister will light the processional candles from the Christ Candle and pass the flame to the Ushers. An Usher will carry the flame to each aisle. **Please keep lighted candles upright!**

Only tip the unlit candles to transfer the flames from person to person. We will sing after everyone has a lit candle.

A CAROL FOR PASSING THE FLAME #188

“Joy To the World”

***A HOLY MOMENT OF SILENCE:** On this sacred night, God invites you to enter the mystery of Christ’s birth with silent hearts, quiet minds, and still bodies. In the hush of Bethlehem, God came near, not with noise or force, but with humility, gentleness, and love. May our shared silence open space to receive the wonder of Emmanuel, God with us.

***A CAROL**

“Silent Night” ZACHARY SMITH, *GUITARIST*

***CLOSING PRAYER & *SPOKEN BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

*Thank you for joining us!
Please Come Again!*

***NOTA BENE** – Please take extinguished candles and Christingles (decorated oranges) home after the worship service. Thank you!

POINSETTIAS – Thank you to the individuals and families who purchased and shared a poinsettia that graced the Sanctuary during the Advent and Christmas season. Families are encouraged to take their poinsettias home after tonight’s service. Donors may leave their poinsettias in the Sanctuary over the next few weeks for decorations.



EMERGENCY – We pray there are no emergencies. If you have an emergency or need medical assistance, please notify an usher. An Usher will contact 911 Emergency Services and tell any doctors, nurses, or medical staff in the Congregation. If an emergency occurs, please keep calm and quiet. The service will continue after the crisis is under the control of professionals.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY @ 10:30 AM. Come and See...God is working powerfully among God's people...and we invite you to join us in person or online.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY—The Church Office will be CLOSED and all programs CANCELED on December 25 in observance of the Christmas holiday. We will also be CLOSED on January 1 in observance of the New Year holiday. Call the Church Office (and listen to the prompts) if you need to speak with Pastor Ivan or have an emergency.

ONE NUMBER TO CALL: (785) 233-4241



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE STAFF - *Merry Christmas!* We are deeply grateful for the many thoughtful cards, kind words, and generous gifts you have shared with us during this holy season. Your expressions of love and encouragement mean more than you know and are a blessing to each of us. Thank you for being such a caring and generous church family as we celebrate the joy of Christ's birth together.

END-OF-THE-YEAR GIFT – Please consider giving an End-of-the-Year gift online, by mail, or in person. West Side Baptist Church is tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and all donations are tax-deductible as provided by law. All donations must be received or postmarked on or before December 31 to be included in your 2025 Statement of Giving.

THE WARMTH OF GIVING
END OF THE YEAR
OFFERING
GOAL\$: 25,000.00

MERRY
Christmas
HAPPY NEW YEAR