

The Illuminating Face of God

A Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols, December 24, 2016

Gathering

Musical Prelude

Art: Vincent van Gogh, "The Starry Night"
(Netherlands)

Welcome and Prayer

La ténèbre/Our darkness (green, 101)

Children's Story

Dan Schrock

Lesson 6: An Oracle of Isaiah

Art: Sawai Chinnawong, "Nativity" (Thailand)

Isaiah 9:2-7

Richard E.W. Aguirre

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming (blue, 211)

Lesson 1: The Advent of the Word

Art: Unknown, Christ, Basilica of Sant'
Apollinare Nuovo, Ravenna (Italy)

John 1:1-5

Dick Yoder

O come, O come, Immanuel (blue, 172)

Lesson 7: The Shepherds and the Angels

Art: Unknown, "The Annunciation to the
Shepherds" (China)

Leader:

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. Lo, an angel of Almighty God came to them, and God's glory shone 'round about them: and they were sore afraid. The angel said to them, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For to you is born this day in David's city a savior — the Messiah. Let this be a sign to you: you shall find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

People:

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace, peace to those on whom God's favor rests!"

(Luke 2:8-14)

Lesson 2: The Annunciation

Art: Unknown, "The Annunciation" (Ethiopia)

Luke 1:26-38

Lisa Short

The angel Gabriel (blue, 180)

Lesson 3: Joseph's Dream

Art: Georges de la Tour, "Dream of St.
Joseph" (France)

Matthew 1:18-25

Merrill Krabill

To us a Child of hope is born (blue, 189)

Lesson 4: Mary's Song of Praise

Art: Sadao Watanabe, "Mary Visits Elizabeth"
(Japan)

Luke 1:39-56

Brenda and Daniel Grimes

My soul is filled with joy (green, 13)

Lesson 5: The Birth of Jesus

Art: Unknown, "The Nativity of Christ" (China)

Luke 2:1-7

Lori Good

Helpless and hungry (purple, 26)

What child is this (blue, 215)

Angels we have heard on high (blue, 197)

Hark! the herald angels sing (blue, 201)

(over)

Art: Jesus Mafa, "The Birth of Jesus with Shepherds" (Cameroun)

Leader:

After the angels had returned to heaven,
the shepherds said one to another,

People:

**"Let us now go into Bethlehem, and see
for ourselves this thing which has come to
pass, and God has made known to us."**

Leader:

They left their camp in haste, and found
Mary and Joseph tending the babe as he
lay in a manger. As they took in the sight,
the shepherds made known what the
angel had told them concerning the child.
All who heard their report were astonished
by the shepherds' words.

People:

**As the shepherds took their leave,
glorifying and praising God for all that
they had witnessed, Mary treasured these
things, and pondered them in her heart.**

(Luke 2:15-20)

The virgin Mary had a baby boy (blue, 202)

Candle Lighting

Art: Jyoti Art Ashram, "Dalit Madonna" (India)

Hope is a candle (purple, 15)

Sending

Art: Jesus Mafa, "Madonna and Child"
(Cameroun)

Silent night, holy night (blue, 193)

Benediction (adapted from Titus 3:4-7)

Participants:

Worship leader: Dan Schrock

Musician: Terri Plank Brenneman

Song Leader: Greg Smucker

Readers: Richard E.W. Aguirre, Lori Good, Brenda and
Daniel Grimes, Merrill Krabill, Lisa Short,
Dick Yoder

Candle Bearers: Austin Hooley, Cassie Sessa

*If you brought an offering, you may place it
in the basket as you leave the sanctuary.*