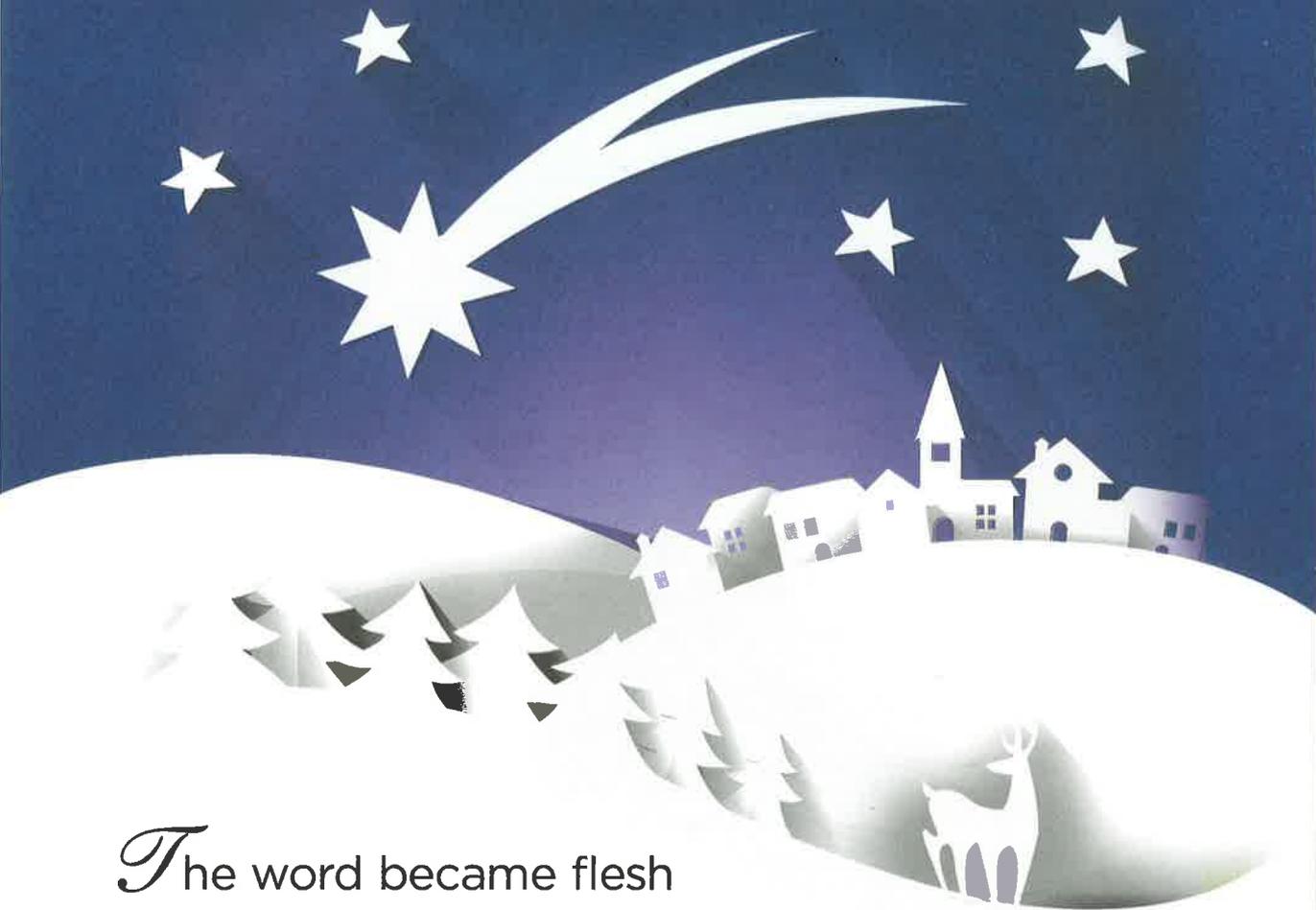


# Christ



*The* word became flesh  
and made his home among us.

—JOHN 1:14

# *Christmas Eve 2018*

## **GATHERING**

Prelude

Prayer of Preparation (*you may wish to prepare for worship by praying silently*)

Good and gracious God, on this holy night you gave us your Son, the Lord of the universe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, the Savior of all, lying in a manger. On this holy night draw us into the mystery of your love. Join our voices with the heavenly host that we may sing your glory on high. Give us a place among the shepherds that we may find the one for whom we have waited, Jesus Christ, the Messiah and Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Christopher Crotwell

Call to Worship

Once we walked in darkness.

**Now we have seen a great light.**

Glory to God in the highest!

**Peace to all people on earth.**

Let us worship God.

\* Hymn 140 – *Once in Royal David's City*

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Suttle Family

## THE WORD

- \* Prayer of Illumination (Unison) Drew Suttle  
**God of truth and wisdom, as we listen for your living Word, send your Spirit to teach us your way, and lead us in the path of your steadfast love and faithfulness. Amen.**
- First Reading – Luke 1:26-38 Drew Suttle
- \* Hymn 129 – *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*
- Second Reading – Matthew 1:18-23 Rhoda Pickett
- Third Reading – Luke 2:1-7 Ellie Forsyth
- \* Hymn 121 – O Little Town of Bethlehem
- Fourth Reading – Luke 2:8-20 J.T. Johnson
- \* Hymn 113 – Angels We Have Heard on High
- Fifth Reading – Isaiah 9:2-7 Rev. Dr. Crotwell
- Homily – *Of All the Years*

## THE EUCHARIST

### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (Unison)

**God of grace and peace, as you have shared your life with us through the child in the manger and this simple meal together, let us share your life with others as the body of Christ in the world; through Jesus, the bread of heaven. Amen.**

## SENDING

### \*Litany of Christ's Light (*Responsive*)

One: God of light, in whom there is no shadow, your gifts to us are from the very beginning of time.

**All: They began with creation, when your spirit gave form to the chaos of energy and matter, and when your word brought forth light on the face of the earth**

One: They continued with our ancestors, like Sarah and Abraham, whom You blessed with a child whose descendants, as many as the stars of the sky, were to be a light to the nations.

**All: At last, You sent Your light into the world in the form of a tiny child, fragile and vulnerable, who grew up to be the very light of light, full of grace and truth, revealing your glory on earth. We thank you, O God, that you have sent Jesus Christ to bring life and immortality to light. Help us receive your gift with joy and humility. Be born among us, that we may give Christ's love to the world, through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

\* The Sharing of Christ's Light

\* Hymn – *Silent Night! Holy Night!*

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
'round yon virgin mother and Child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia!  
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!"**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

**Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King:  
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!**

\* Benediction

\* Postlude

\*Please stand at the \* as you are able. Unison readings are **printed in bold**.