

First Baptist Church Lincoln
December 24, 2024
Order of Worship

Christmas Eve

Welcome & Opening Prayer Rev. Joy Martinez-Marshall

Call to Worship

One: When we wait in the night
in the hush that only stars can hold
as they bend towards the coming of the light;

when we wait in the night
laboring with anticipation
of what midnight shall bring;

when we wait in the night
listening to the cadence of minutes
beat in rhythm with the birth of hope;

may we hold our collective breaths
with the angelic host
as they clutch their restless alleluias,

for God is on the way:
the mother is laboring
the father pacing
the stable readying
the word is waiting
the light is sliding
and the promise is breaking through

**Many: When we wait in the longing for midnight
in expectation of Good News
may we choose to wait together
and find we have moved to the edge of our seats
for in such anticipation
it is the only place
for the Word to be born among us. Praise be to God!**

Opening Song Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Praise Song O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Reading from the Prophet Isaiah Isaiah 9:2-7

Praise Song O Come, All Ye Faithful

Reading from the Gospel According to Luke Isaiah 9:2-7 Luke 2:1-7

Praise Song We Three Kings

Reading from the Gospel According to Luke Luke 2:8-20

Homily

Praise Song Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Sharing the Light of Christ

Benediction: Sending Forth the Light of Christ

Benediction for Christmas

(based on Isaiah 9:2-7)

ONE: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in deepest night,
are lit up with a brilliant sight.
Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.
The spread of his influence and of his peace will never end.
Therefore, go out into the world with great joy,
and the grace of Bethlehem's matchless Child,
the love of the God who never ceases to amaze,
and the fellowship of the Spirit who never wearies,
will be with you this holy night and evermore.

MANY: Thanks be to God!

Response Song Silent Night! Holy Night