



Christmas Eve Worship 2025

A Service of Lessons and Carols

Emmanuel Friedens Church
Wednesday, December 24, 2025
7:00 pm

Welcome to Emmanuel Friedens Church

Our Christmas Eve worship service will be held in the sanctuary at 7 pm.
Online Worship will also be available at 7 pm live on Facebook and Zoom.
(See below)

Facebook Live from the Emmanuel Friedens Church Facebook Page

Log in to Facebook, and go to the Emmanuel Friedens page prior to the service.

If you have difficulty locating it, the link is: <https://www.facebook.com/Emmanuel-Friedens-Church-122934277889274/>

If you have a Facebook account but aren't already notified about Emmanuel Friedens doings, log into Facebook, go the Emmanuel Friedens Church Page and click "Like".

The service will "go live" at 6:55 pm to allow time to find it on Facebook.

OR

Join Zoom Gathering

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Zoom by internet:

<https://zoom.us/j/7050534826?pwd=eWdMNmJBT0FpK1ZHeE1jS0ZyNUVZQT09>

Meeting ID: 705 053 4826 Password: 063310

Dial by any phone (voice and sound only)

1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 705 053 4826 Password: 063310

A recorded video version of this service

will be available sometime after the service. At a time of your choice, go to the church's website, <http://emmanuelfriedens.org/> and click on the link located on the Home page for the video of that day.



Gathering Music

Prelude

"Sweet Little Jesus Boy"

Robert MacGimsey
Soloist: Nakia Beverly-Brown



Words of Welcome

Rev. Dr. Katy Stenta



Meditative Music

"O Holy Night"

Music: Adolphe Charles Adam

Words: John Sullivan Dwight

Performed by: Nakia Beverly-Brown, Carla Fisk, EFC Choir

First Lesson

Luke 1: 26-31

Rev. Dr. Katy Stenta



In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.

+Carol

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"



It came upon the midnight clear, The glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth, To touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, From heav'ns all gracious King"
The world in solemn stillness lay, To hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, By prophet bards foretold,
When the ever circling years Come round the age of gold;
When peace over all the earth Its ancient splendors fling,
And whole world give back the song Which now the angels sing.

Preparing for Christmas, A Prayer (Responsive Reading)



God, we are here, because you are preparing the ground for us

God, you call us together

To live into the hope—one that lasts even when our own hope fails

Christmas is full of promises

Promises that peace has been planted

That peace is worth working towards

Promises that the Prince of Peace will come

Even if all our plans for Christmas don't go perfectly

Christ is coming, no matter what, it is promised!

God is preparing the ground for us—and threading joy

A deep seated joy that is rooted in God's love for us.

One that proclaims, Hark, Look, Emmanuel

God is with us! We are beloved!

Let us Greet Christ's Coming Together!

Come let us find Christmas, Together

+Carol

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

O Come, O Come Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely Exile here, Until the son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice, Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations, bind All peoples in one heart and mind
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease; Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice, Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Second Lesson

Luke: 1: 46-56

Angela Keller

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.



Meditative Music

"Mary, Did You Know?"

Music/Words: Mark Lowry
and Buddy Greene, arr: Dianna Parisi
Soloist: Nakia Beverly-Brown

Third Lesson

Matthew 1:18-25

Jocelyn McKinney

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.



+Carol

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.



Fourth Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

Mary Lou Chotkowski

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.



Meditative Music

"Love Came Down at Christmas"

Allen Pote
EFC Choir





Children's Sermon Lighting the Candles: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, and the Christ Candle

(All children are invited to the front of the church.)

+Carol

"Away in a Manger"



Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle til morning is nigh

Fifth Lesson

Luke 2: 8-12

Davis Lent



In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."



Meditative Music

"The Virgin Slumber Song"

Music: Max Reger
Words: Martin Beolitz
Soloist: Carla Fisk

Sixth Lesson

John 3: 16-17

Ray Andersons

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.





+Carol

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand
Ponder nothing earthly minded, For with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth, Our full homage to demand

King of kings, yet born of Mary, As of old on earth He stood
Lord of lords, in human vesture, In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful, his own self for heavenly food

At his feet the six-winged Seraph; Cherubim with sleepless eye
Veil their faces to the presence, As with ceaseless voice they cry
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord Most High



Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation from Christ

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Lift up your hearts

We lift our hearts to the lord

Give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give our thanks and praise....(prayer continues)

....and praying as his son taught us to pray.....



The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

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, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine *is* the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



Bread and Cup



Communion Music

“Holy Infant's Lullaby”

Norman Dello Joio
Soloist: Carla Fisk



Seventh Lesson

Luke 2: 13-14

Ruth Lindenfelser

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Meditative Music

"Amen! Go Tell It on The Mountain!"

Traditional Spiritual
arr: Mary McDonald
EFC Choir



+Carol

"Joy to the World"

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

Lighting of Individual Candles

All congregants are invited to move in or toward the aisles and toward the front (as they are able to) and be closer to one another for the lighting and for Silent Night

Please hold lit candles upright and allow those with unlit candles to receive the light from your flame.



Eighth Lesson

John 1:1-5

Rev. Dr. Katy Stenta

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.



+Carol

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

German Verse

*Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,
Alles schläft; einsam wacht
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!*

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.

+ Indicates: Those who are able, we invite you to **please stand**.

Emmanuel Friedens Church

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*A Welcoming, Open and Affirming
Congregation*

Thank you to all who participated in this evening's worship service.

May the spirit of Christmas bring you blessings and joy!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

*Rev. Kathryn Stenta "Pastor Katy"
and the Emmanuel Friedens Staff:*