

***The Invitation and Words of Institution**

Pastor: Friends, on this Holy Night it is fitting that we gather at this, the Lord's Table, celebrating the great gift God has given us, in Jesus Christ, through this joyful feast!

***Prayer of Dedication**

People: We thank you Gracious Lord for the gift of your Son. May the joy of His birth, the witness of His life, and the Mercy of His death, challenge us to follow His example leading others toward His eternal light.

Receiving the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***The Passing of the Light**

Pastor: This is the message we have heard from Him, this is the song we sing and proclaim to you; that God is Light and in God there is no darkness at all.

People: If we say we have fellowship with God while we walk in darkness, we lie, and do not live according to the truth.

Pastor: But if we walk in the light, as God is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another.

People: And the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin.

As "Silent Night" is played and the lights are dimmed, the pastor will light a candle from the Christ Candle on the Advent Wreath and then light the candles of Elders. The Elders will then light the candles of those on the center of each aisle, who in turn will pass the light to the others in that row.

REMEMBER, the lighted candle must remain upright, and the unlighted candle tipped to receive the flame from those already lit. For your safety, parents should supervise children in holding lighted candles.

***Hymn**

"Silent Night! Holy Night!"

No. 253
on PowerPoint

***Christmas Prayer and Benediction**

Postlude

Please be careful to extinguish candles prior to leaving your pew.

**Those Who Are Able, Please Stand*

*We welcome all who have come to worship with us this evening.
We pray that this candlelight service will be a blessing to you and
that you have a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.*

*All those who confess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are
invited to partake in the Lord's Supper. This includes baptized
children who have received proper instruction from their parents.*

† † †

Lay leader this evening is Chris McClellan.

Ushers this evening are members of Session.

Sound Booth Operator this evening is Hayden Turner.

The Poinsettias are given to celebrate our Lord's birth and
in honor and memory of those listed on the bulletin insert.

Greeting the congregation at the close of the service
today are Buddy and Anne Ward at the Church Street door
and Chris McClellan and Marian Hartman at the State
Street door.

Looking Ahead

Wednesday, December 25

The Celebration of the Birth of Christ

Sunday, December 29

9:15 AM Prayer Meeting

9:30 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Worship Service

Thursday, January 2

6:00 PM Deacons meet in Pastor Ward's Office

TITLE: *"The Gift Has Arrived"*

TEXTS: Isaiah 9:6-7

- I. Introduction: *How could* Jesus *be the* Messiah *?*

- II. Jesus certainly was not born like a Messiah .

- III. Jesus did not act like a Messiah .

- IV. Jesus certainly did not die like a Messiah .

- V. Let us celebrate Jesus, the Messiah, God's greatest gift, because . . .
“ _____ !”