

PRELUDE *Amazing Love*

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

L: Arise, shine; for your light has come!

P: The glory of God has risen upon us.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Praise the Lord, O you people.

P: We joyfully proclaim Christ is here!

L: The God of all creation animates our bodies with the breath of the Spirit.

P: The Lord, the giver of life, has come to dwell among us.

***SONG #401** *Here in This Place*

***CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gather us, your children who run and hide, ashamed, afraid, apathetic.

We trade your goodness for ashes. We trade your peace for control. We trade your promise for certainty.

Gather us to you and return us to your abundant mercy; may it flow over us, renewing our weary souls.

***SILENT CONFESSION**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

L: The light of all life and the breath of all creation claims you, calling you “good” from the very beginning, very good. Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

P: Thanks be to God!

***SONG OF JOY** *Here in This Place* refrain

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;

gather us in, the blind and the lame;

call to us now, and we shall awaken;

we shall arise at the sound of our name.

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, by the gift of your Holy Spirit show us the Word made flesh – good news of great joy for all – so that we may sing with the angels: glory in the highest and peace on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING John 1:10-18

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’”) From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

SERMON *Love Came Down: Unfailing Love*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *The Holly and the Ivy* Handbells

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Loving God: We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

Receive the gifts we offer in union with Christ's gift for us. Clothe us with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, that we may be Christ for others. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

PRAYER

***SONG #127** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing / Jesus the Light of the World*

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE #137** *He Came Down* (verse 1)

He came down that we may have love;

He came down that we may have love;

He came down that we may have love,

Hallelujah forevermore.

POSTLUDE *We Three Kings* Handbells