

**A Service to Celebrate the Light of Christ for the First Sunday of Christmas
December 29, 2024**

Prelude Music: “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” (instrumental)

Welcome & Announcements

Call to worship

On this day earth shall ring: **Glory to God in the highest!**

For Christ our Lord has been born for us, the Son given to us. **Glory to God in the highest!**
Love has come down at Christmas, and perfect love casts out all fear. **Glory to God in the highest!**

Friends, let us rejoice! For Christ is born, and the angels sing: **Glory to God in the highest!**

Opening Hymn: #240 Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Reflect: Where have you found a “God moment” or a sign of Christ this season?

Like Mary, who pondered the shepherds' news in her heart, we give thanks and reflect on what God has done. Like the shepherds who looked for a sign from God—and then made it known to others, we will share moments of hope, peace, love, and joy with others.

1. The CHRIST Candle:

*“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 1:14:*

*“The birth of Christ is the light of our salvation, and this light still shines in us today.”
– Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

Hymn: “You’ve Come, You’ve Come, Emmanuel. (Be Still My Soul)” (see screen)

2. The HOPE Candle: → Reflect: Where have you found a sign of God’s hope this season?

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” ~1 Peter 1:3

Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness. ~Desmond Tutu

Hymn #218: “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

3. The PEACE Candle: → Reflect: What helped you find the peace of Christ this season?

(Jesus said) “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” ~John 14:27

If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other. ~Mother Theresa

Offering Song: “Still, Still, Still, O Little Town of Bethlehem”
Doxology

Kids Message (Kids are invited to gather at the chancel steps)

4. The JOY Candle: → Reflect: Where have you found a sign of God's joy this season?

<i>"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." ~Philippians 4:4-8</i>	<i>Joy is the simplest form of gratitude. ~ Karl Barth</i>
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Hymn #246: "Joy to the World"

4. The LOVE Candle: → Reflect: Where have you found a sign of Christ-like love this season?

<i>"This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." ~1 John 4:9-10</i>	<i>Love is not merely an emotion, but a choice to serve, sacrifice, and put others before ourselves, just as Christ loved us." – C.S. Lewis</i>
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Hymn #242: "Love Came Down at Christmas"

Christmas Creed (see screen)

Closing Hymn #251: Go Tell it on the Mountain

Benediction

The flowers on the altar today are given in memory of Mike and Victoria Varunok on their anniversary and in honor of Nick Varunok on his 35th birthday by Andre Varunok.

**CHURCH OFFICE
HOLIDAY HOURS**

**New Year's Eve (Dec 31st) 9-12
New Year's Day (Jan 1st): Closed**

**Join us Sunday, January 5th
9am & 11am Services**

EPIPHANY STAR WORDS

Offerings can be placed in the offering plates, mailed to the church (819 Park St. Jacksonville, FL 32204) or given online using "MyWell" (code to the right):
www.mywellorg/give/rpumc

