

until justice rolls down like waters,
and righteousness like an overflowing stream.
In this hope, and as your people, we praise you:

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory is yours everywhere, now and forever.

Let all the people sing Amen:

Amen, Amen, O Holy One! MVU #205
Hosanna and Amen!
Amen, amen, O Holy One!
Hosanna and Amen!

ENJOYING THE CHRISTMAS FEAST

READING: John 1: 1 - 5, 14a Rev. Lena Medeiros

The Word was first, the Word present to God,
God, present to the Word.
The Word was God, in readiness for God from day one.
Everything was created through him;
nothing—not one thing!—came into being without him.
What came into existence was Life,
and the Life was Light to live by.
The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness;
the darkness couldn't put it out.

The Word became flesh and blood,
and moved into the neighborhood.

CAROL: Joy to the World VU #59

A CHRISTMAS BLESSING

CAROL: Silent Night VU #67

Christmas Eve



WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH

Christmas Eve 2024

A Service of Words and Music

Rev. Lena Medeiros

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL CAROL: Once in Royal David's City VU #62

A CHRISTMAS WELCOME

READING: Psalm 96 Rev. Lena Medeiros

Softly, as in a winter sunrise,
a line of light breaks the blackness of the night.
**The song the Singer sang at creation—
the high sweet melody heard only inside the soul—
shimmers in the frosty air.**
At last the long night is over.
The glory of the new day spills into the expectant skies.
God rewards the vigil of the sleepless watchers.
**But those who dissipated their energies
in "midnight madness" sales
now see that their goods are defective.**
Their gaudy packages are all empty.
True worth never comes from consuming;
it only comes from God.
Fall on your knees, with your face to the rising sun;
give thanks for new beginnings.
Fall on your knees, with your face to the rising Son;
and offer yourself as a gift to the child.
**For the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never overcome it.**
Wake up, and welcome the new day!
**The birds sing, the buds blossom,
even glaciers melt their frozen hearts;
trees lift bare arms to the light.**
For God has come to live among us.
God will demonstrate the way of righteousness;
the living God will reveal truth for all time.
{James Taylor in *Everyday Psalms*, 1994 }

CAROL: O Come, All Ye Faithful VU #60

READING: Matthew 1: 18 - 25 Carol Goff

CAROL: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing VU #48

READING: Luke 2: 1 - 14 Cori Angus

A CHRISTMAS ANTHEM: While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

CAROL: Angels We Have Heard on High VU #38

READING: Matthew 2: 1 - 11 Alma Scovil

CAROL: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice VU #35

INVITATION TO THE CHRISTMAS FEAST

THE CHRISTMAS FEAST

Glory to God in the highest!

And on earth, peace to all!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.

It is good to give thanks and praise.

Creator God, we give you thanks and praise

for the beauty of the earth in every season. Especially we thank you for the beauty in this season of Christmas.

The stars of night light our way, just as Jesus the true light reveals to us the way of life.

Trees and branches, fruits and berries and flowers overflow with reminders of your great abundance toward us in creation.

As Christmas is celebrated in snow and heat, in dry desert and tropical forest, each climate praises the diversity of your design.

Even with all you have done for us, we turned against you, rejecting your love.

Yet you did not stop loving us. Instead, you sent prophets, messengers who announced peace, good news, salvation!

Therefore, we break forth together into singing:

O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space. MVU #203

All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace.

Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings your praise.

And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always.

As you spoke long ago to our ancestors in many and various ways, **you have spoken to us by a Son, Jesus Christ.**

He is the reflection of your glory;

the exact imprint of your very being;

and all things are sustained by his powerful word.

We thank you that on the night before he died...

...Celebrating these gift from the One who is Astonishing Grace, we sing the mystery of our faith:

Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

MVU #204

Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

VU #959

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts.

Make us one with Christ in his self-giving, that through us, he may:

bind up the broken-hearted,

comfort the mourners,

open the eyes of the blind,

and proclaim liberty to the captives—