

Gathering in God's Name

As we gather, quietly take time to sit and prepare your heart to worship God

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Andrea & Henry Cooper

He Came Down (verse 4)



1 He came down that we may have hope; he came down that we may have hope; he
2 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace; he
3 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy; he
4 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love; he



came down that we may have hope; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.
came down that we may have peace; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.
came down that we may have joy; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.
came down that we may have love; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.

Voluntary

"Christmas Wish"

Mark Krantz

*Call to Worship

The Abingdon Worship Annual

Leader: Out of little Bethlehem comes one who is to rule in Israel.

People: **He shall be great to the ends of the earth.**

Leader: Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.

People: **God's mercy extends from generation to generation. Holy is God's name!**

*Opening Prayer (unison)

The Abingdon Worship Annual

Come to us, Promised One, in this season of waiting. Set our hearts ablaze with the glory of your salvation. Set our minds afire with the richness of your word. Reveal to us the secret of your ways; for you alone are worthy of our thanks and praise. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray. Amen.

*Hymn #133

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

John Francis Wade

Please be seated

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Feasting on the Word

God of grace and truth, you give the gift of yourself, but we are often caught up in our own gifts given and received. You offer us new life in the baby born in Bethlehem, but we cloak that birth in sentiment and ignore the cost of new life. You shine in the world, but we dwell on the darkness; You came to us in flesh and blood, but we often fail to see you in the human lives around us. Forgive what we have been, shape who we are, and direct who we shall be. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light! Walk in the assurance of God's grace and forgiveness. Be people of light and forgive one another.

*Passing of the Peace

*Gloria (Hymn 582)

"Glory to God"

Paul M. Vasile

Proclaiming God's Word

Children's Sermon

Musical Interlude: "O Holy Night" *Adolphe Adam*

Scripture Reading: Luke 2: 1-20

NT/page 56

Sermon: "A Barn in Bethlehem"

The Rev. Candace Whitman

Responding to God with Thanksgiving

* Hymn # 122

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

Franz Saver Gruber

*Affirmation of Faith The Apostles Creed

page 35 in hymnal

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Invitation to the Offering

Feasting on the Word

Loving God, your goodness and mercy are without limit. With thankful hearts, we bring our offering before you this day. Use these gifts to lift the lowly, fill the hungry with good things, and bring hope to all who call on your name. In Jesus's name, we pray. Amen.

Offertory "How far is it to Bethlehem?"

Francis Chesterton, traditional

*Doxology (Hymn 606)

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Genevan Psalter

*Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Feasting on the Word

God of every good and perfect gift, we thank you for your greatest gift, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. In this season when so many gifts are given and received, we pray that you will receive the gifts we offer now. Use them according to your purposes and plans, bringing your good news of great joy to all people; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen

Hymn #134

"Joy to the World"

George Frederick Handel

*Charge, Benediction and Amen.

Please be seated

Postlude

The postlude is the final act of our worship together. Please remain seated thru the postlude for a brief moment of personal reflection and inspiration.

Those participating in worship today:

Music:

Coral, Sandy, Piper and Teddy Borsack, Kailey Eberhart, Matt Chapman, Nicholas Cooper, Harriet Edwards & Pember Edwards

Elder of the Month:

Barbara D'Andrea

Deacon of the Month:

please contact the Deacons

Reader:

Barbara D'Andrea

Ushers:

Peter Cooper, Rachel Cooper & Paul Vogel



Please pray for the following friends: Liam Baum, Denise & Mike Chicca, Robert Fariel, Gordon Grant, Pat Kinzer, Dana Lester, Jane Talmage, Gus Lockwood, Susan Winkler, Dick Roberts, Dr. Gregory Lutz, the family of Dr. Michael Edwards, Our Sister Church in Guines, Cuba and their pastor & his family.

Pastor Jon Rodriguez will officially begin as the 22nd Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of East Hampton, in its 373 year history, on January 8th.



Unhanging the Greens - We will need help after the New Year, anytime January 2 thru January 5th. Any amount of time you can give will be greatly appreciated. That way Steve Bock can put all the boxed decorations up in the attic by Friday January 6th, 2023!

EAST HAMPTON FOOD PANTRY serves our community by collecting food and distributing it to those in need. This week's item of the week is canned soup.

Cuba 2024 Mission Trip February 27 – March 7, 2024 to visit our sister church in Guines, Cuba. For more information contact Barbara D'Andrea.

If you would like to donate flowers for the communion table and/or pedestals in honor or in memory of a loved one please e-mail Summer Borsack at summerborsack@gmail.com or call the church office. Please let us know if the flowers are to be distributed after the service.



