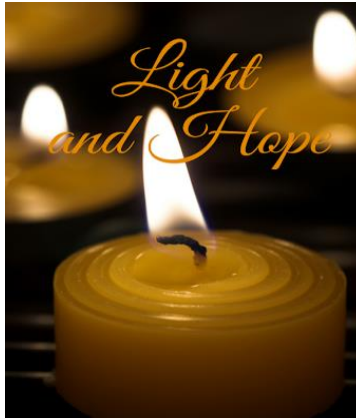


O Holy Night



**COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BARRINGTON
SERVICE OF LIGHT AND HOPE
CHRISTMAS EVE**

PRELUDE

*O Holy Night (Jan Sanborn) / Once in Royal David's City (Rodney Abriol)
The First Noel (Mark Hayes)*

THE PURPOSE OF THIS NIGHT and PRAYER

Rev. Zina Jacque

CALL TO WORSHIP

One Voice: We gather tonight with a sense of wonder deep in our hearts. The Messiah, foretold so long ago, is about to be born.

Many Voices: **We gather in Advent hope, expecting the Lord of Lords, the Son of God, our brother and friend, to come and dwell among us.**

One Voice: This brings us hope. Look, the sky is unfolding. The heavenly choir is singing. The light has come.

All Voices: ***This night brings joy, unspeakable joy, full of glory. Sing, O creation, sing with loud voices. Sing, joy to the world, the gift is given, our Savior is born. Amen!***

JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the world
The Lord has come!
Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and heaven and nature sing

He rules the world
With truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love.
And wonders of His love

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
Oh come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, (repeats) Christ the Lord.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
“Glory to God, all glory in the highest”;
O come, let us adore him, (repeats) Christ the Lord

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee, be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
O come, let us adore him, (repeats) Christ the Lord.

SCRIPTURE.

Luke 2:8-17

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child,

One Voice: The word of God, for the people of God
Many Voices: **Thanks to be God.**

HARK, THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Hark the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn king
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies
With angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Hark the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn king.

Hail the heav’n born Prince of Peace
Hail the son of righteousness.
Light and life to all He brings.
Ris’n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die.
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn king.

HOMILY

That Blessed Light

Rev. Zina Jacque

Sabbath Poems 1999 (VI) by Wendell Berry

*We travelers, walking to the sun, can't see
Ahead, but looking back the very light
That blinded us shows us the way we came,
Along which blessings now appear, risen
As if from sightlessness to sight, and we,
By blessing brightly lit, keep going toward
That blessed light that yet to us is dark.*

PASSING OF THE LIGHT

All Who Gather

Verse 1

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright
'Round yon virgin mother and Child,
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Verse 3

Silent Night, Holy Night. Here at last, healing light
From the heavenly kingdom sent,
Abundant grace for our intent
Jesus, Salvation for all; Jesus, salvation for all.

Verse 2

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly host sing Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

Verse 4

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus Lord at thy birth.

BENEDICTION AND BLESSING OF THE LIGHT

Rev. Zina Jacque

*Beloved, may you go into this night aware of God's gracious, warm light around you; the light that shone at creation and upon a stable so long ago. May you feel its warmth and our love and may you be blessed.
Merry Christmas.*

