

WORSHIP for December 24, 2020 - SERVICE for Christmas Eve

Lighting Candle of Christ: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OCUpv_1Uhrq

Meditate on baby Jesus in the nativity scene.

Call to Worship: Isaiah 45:18 *Unison*

**For this is what the Lord says – he who created the heavens, he is God;
he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it;
he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited – he says:
“I am the Lord, and there is no other.**

Opening Hymn: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cpHY3jU27dc>

Prayer for Illumination of God’s Word: *Unison*

Father in heaven,

**just as you sent the star of Bethlehem to shine over your Son, the living Word of God,
send your Holy Spirit to shine over Scripture as your word for us to tonight.**

Help us to see what you show us.

And give us power to do what you ask us to do. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

Pause between Scripture Readings: **John 1:1-2 & Genesis 1:1-2**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+1%3A1-2&version=NIV>

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=genesis+1%3A1-2&version=NIV>

Hymn: “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQ-TO6ypUWM>

Pause between Scripture Readings: **John 1:9-13 & Luke 1:31-33**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john+1%3A9-13&version=NIV>

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=luke+1%3A31-33&version=NIV>

Hymn: “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSXsg7s0AFk>

Pause between Scripture Readings: **John 1:14 & Luke 2:9-14**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john+1%3A14&version=NIV>

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=luke+2%3A9-14&version=NIV>

Hymn: **“Away in a Manger”**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M2ULTkNmIEY>

Jesus, the baby lying in a manger,
is the Word, who was, is, and always will be the ruler of all the universe,
the only One worthy of our worship and praise.

Hymn of Preparation: **“O Come All Ye Faithful”**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q8dgl4-bVPU>

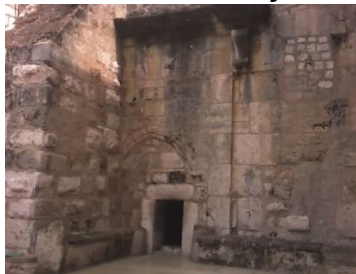
Brief Meditation

There is a church traditionally believed to be the site where baby Jesus lived with Mary and Joseph during their stay in Bethlehem. It is said to be the place where the Magi visited them, bringing gifts of incense, gold and myrrh.



This stained-glass window in the church shows the Magi from the east in reverent worship at the feet of the Christ child. Eastern Christian churches celebrate Christmas on the anniversary of the visit of the Magi to see Jesus in Bethlehem.

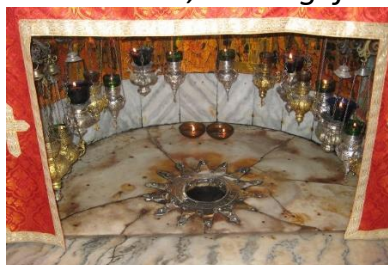
Pause in silent meditation of remembrance.



This is the doorway to enter the church of the basilica in Bethlehem.
Note how the door is small entrance below the bigger door now bricked in.

This is so that those who enter must bow in reverence to Jesus.

Pause in silent meditation, bowing if willing and able.



This above photo is taken within the church.
The star represents that of the star of Bethlehem that shined where Jesus lay.

It is enshrined under an altar and is surrounded by many lights.

Beneath the marble floor is the place that tradition says is where baby Jesus lay.

There is a hole in the center where one can reach in to touch the place where Jesus lay.

In order to reach, one must kneel, just as did the Magi in reverence.

Pause in silent meditation, bowing if willing and able.

Now let us bow our hearts as we pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

Closing Hymn played and sung by Brent Miller, **“Silent Night”**

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AkHVFJOPaC0&list=PLAdy2hvW6PL8_1itXDbTRrCeI331DmVVU&index=2

Please light your candle now.

1) *Go to sing “Silent Night” standing at a window to allow the light to shine in the darkness.*

2) *Or if able go outside to proclaim the good news of Jesus for others to see and hear.*

Remain at the window or outside for the benediction and the postlude, “O Holy Night.”

Benediction: *Responsively*

Let us continue in the love, joy, and peace that comes to us through Jesus, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Postlude played and sung by Brent Miller, **“O Holy Night”**

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2a-yZv2wcuE&list=PLAdy2hvW6PL8_1itXDbTRrCeI331DmVVU&index=2