

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:

One: As we light this Christ candle may it remind us that Christ is in us and in our world.

Sung Response: VU#82 "A Light is Gleaming" Refrain and Verse 1

**Refrain: A light is gleaming, spreading its arms
throughout the night,
living in the light. Come share its gladness,
God's radiant love is
burning bright, living in the light.**

1. When light comes pouring into the darkest place, it hurts our eyes to see the glow. Sometimes a word of hope reminds us of our fears, our memories and tears.

Refrain:

THEME CONVERSATION

(Children leave for Discovery Kids)

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Micah 6:8; Matthew 5:1-12
read by Peggy Wallace

ANTHEM: "What Does the Lord Require of You"

SERMON:

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS AND OFFERTORY ANTHEM – "Dona Nobis"

SUNG RESPONSE: MV #182

**Grateful for the life you give us,
thankful for your Holy Son,
Joyful in your Spirit flowing over all, O God of love.
Grateful for the birth of Jesus, thankful for Emmanuel.
Jesus born in Bethlehem and in our hearts as well.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

HYMN: VU#896 "Blest Are They"

1. Blest are they, the poor in spirit, theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow, they shall be consoled.

Refrain:

**Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God.**

2. Blest are they, the lowly ones, they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst, they shall have their fill.
3. Blest are they who show mercy, mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart, they shall see God!

Refrain:

4. Blest are they who seek peace; they are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith, the glory of God is theirs.
5. Blest are you who suffer hate, all because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom; shine for all to see.

Refrain:

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER:

Read by Carol MacDonald

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

SUNG BENEDICTION: "Go in Love"

Go in love; have no fear.
God will guide you, God is always near.
Go in love; take God's hand.
God will hear you, God will understand.
May God's light forever shine upon you;
may God's peace be always in your heart.
Go in love; face each day.
God will lead you, God will show the way.
Go in love and live in faith. Amen.

POSTLUDE:

