

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION*

see insert

We welcome you, as your mask remains on, to come forward to share the Bread and Cup. Upon receiving the Meal, simply remove your mask at that moment, then return to your pew with your mask on. Or, if you would like to remain where you are, we welcome you to utilize the Communion packet at your pew.

<i>Away in a Manger</i>	217
<i>What Child Is This</i>	219
<i>Infant Holy, Infant Lowly</i>	229

CAROL*	<i>Hark! the Herald Angels Sing</i>	240
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THE CHRIST LIGHT*		
CAROL*	<i>Silent Night, Holy Night</i>	239

BENEDICTION

In the hopeless time of sin shadows deep had fallen.
All the world lay under death, eyes were closed in sleeping.
But, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose golden
Light brings unending joy, brings the endless joy of our hope,
Highest hope, of our hope's bright dawning, Son beloved of heaven.
(En el Frio Invernal, 233)

POSTLUDE	<i>Carillon Sortie</i>	Henri Mulet
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WE WELCOME ALL— All are invited to participate fully in the life of this community of faith and love regardless of race, class, gender, or sexual orientation. We welcome all with open hearts, open minds, and open doors! Those who wish to become members are encouraged to contact: jay@raynenola.org.

OFFERING— Your generosity and gifts enable Rayne's ministries, thank you! Offerings will be received in the box on the table in the rear of the sanctuary behind the last pew. You can also give online (www.raynenola.org/contribute), by texting "giverayne" to 73256, or using the QR code.



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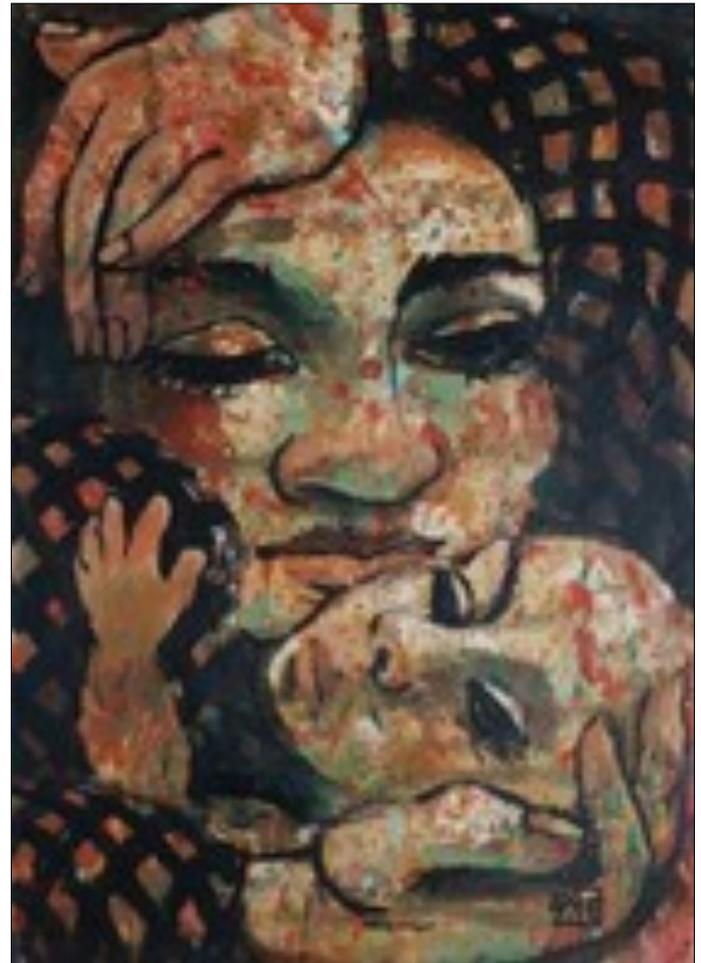


Rayne
Memorial United Methodist Church

for 145 years shining the light of God's love and grace

3900 Saint Charles Avenue - New Orleans, Louisiana 70115
504.899.3431 - www.raynenola.org
December 25, 2021
5 and 7 o'clock in the evening

Christmas Eve



"Third World Madonna, IV," by Wayne Lacson Forte

GATHERING

Rev. Jay Hogewood
God of fear, God of the night, God of the expectation, you visited shepherds in the night with songs and sights of joy. In all of our nights, turn us towards hope, because hope might just keep us alive. Amen.

PRELUDE

Carillon de Westminster

Louis Vierne

Marcus St. Julien

CALL TO WORSHIP* *responsively*

Rev. Marissa Teauseau Horvath

Beloved in Christ, we await the glorious festival of Christmas. Let us prepare for the unfailing gift of God - the arrival of God's Love in living color. Let us prepare for the in-breaking of Grace and Truth in the birth of the only begotten Son, Jesus, our Savior. Come Lord Jesus, we gather to praise you and adore you!

Come, all ye faithful, come and remember that the Lord has shared with us the sun and the moon, the stars and the earth with its forests and mountains and oceans, and all that live and move within them. God's love came down to earth in order to give us the gift of life made new.

Come, all ye faithful, come and join the choir of angels. The day of renewal is coming, when Christ the Lord wipes away the tears from our eyes and restores the order of the world with peace and justice, with forgiveness and compassion.

Come, all ye faithful, come and worship, joyful and triumphant. Jesus comes to save us from our sin and sorrow. Come and behold him, born the king of angels. O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

HYMN*

O Come, All Ye Faithful 234 (Verses 1, 2, 3 & 6)

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE *responsively*

Emily and Jason Lemann with Anna Kate and Olivia 5:00 pm

Vanessa Claiborne with Clarice and Hunter 7:00 pm

We light this candle and it seems such a simple thing: flame to wick - a quiet act that we would do alone, an act to provide something bright in the midst of gloom. Does this light make much of a difference? Does it change the power of the night that invites us to fear the unknown and all this is unseen? Does this light make the world a better place?

We light these candles because we have seen a great light; and we trust that increasing that light does make a difference in the world around us. We light these candles because we want to be people who shine God's light; we want to be people who know a God who loves the world so much that this God chose to be born in a manger in the midst of despair and oppression.

We light these candles as a sign of the light of the kingdom of heaven that is coming into our world. We light these candles of peace, hope, joy and love that make our circle complete. We light the candle of love as the sign of Christ's presence among us. Let us shine the light of God's grace and glory.

**The People Standing*

The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who dwelt in the shadow of death on them a light has shined. Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth let there be Love!

CAROL*

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

218

THE RED STEPS

A Special Time for Our Children

At this time, children age 3 years old through 2nd grade may attend children's church in the education building.

OFFERTORY AND CHORAL ANTHEM

Ushers with offering plates will pass by each pew. Please pass your gift to the usher or place in the box on the table in the rear of the sanctuary.

Love Came Down at Christmas

John Rutter

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, love divine;

Worship we our Jesus:
But wherewith for sacred sign?
Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine;
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea, and gift and sign.

GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY

Luke 2:1-20

CHORAL ANTHEM

In the Bleak Midwinter

Harold Darke

Laurie Phillips, Joseph Tate, *soloists*

In the bleak midwinter,
Frosty wind made moan.
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone.
Snow had fallen snow and snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter long ago.

Our God, Heav'n cannot hold him,
Nor earth sustain.
Heav'n and earth shall flee away,
When he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter,
A stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom cherubin,
Worship night and day,
A breast full of milk,
And a manger full of hay.
Enough for him, whom angels,
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel,
Which adore.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a
lamb. If I were a wise man,
I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give him,
Give my heart.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION*

All are welcome at the table!

INVITATION

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin, and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

CONFESSION

Almighty God, through your Son, Jesus, you have reconciled the world to yourself. Urge us now to restore our relationships and lead us to accept the good news of great joy - your forgiveness and everlasting love. Lead us to release any guilt or feelings of shame from past mistakes, withholdings, and sin. Encourage us to turn again to you and to your way of loving-kindness. Allow us to enjoy the warmth of your embrace; and encourage us to share your love with others. Inspire us to set aside the cloak of pride and greed and to put on the mercy of Christ that we might forgive as we are forgiven.

Through Jesus Christ our Savior we pray. Amen.

(silence)

PARDON

Hear the good news. God sent his only Son, Jesus, into the world not to condemn the world but that the world might be saved through him. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God! Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

And so with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

And so in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,

as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

THE LORD'S PRAYER