



**DO NOT BE AFRAID
CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
ST. ANDREW'S PDX ON-LINE
4:00 PM, 12.24.21**

GATHERING

Instrumental Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

God is telling a story in our lives.
It's quite a story-
full of the promises God makes
and our struggles to trust;
full of mystery and angels
with surprising news;
full of hard endings
and unexpected new beginnings.

Come, hear the story
pay attention to the angels' message
in your heart
in this place and time.

Then join all creation
in worshipping the God
who tells it
full of grace and truth;
who comes in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
and makes our story holy.

Carol *O Come, All Ye Faithful!* VV. 1-3

Glory to God #133

SENDING

Candlelighting and Silent Night

Glory to God #122

Share light with those in your home, make sure everyone has a candle or an artificial light. Turn off other lights and enjoy the glow of the smaller lights you are holding as we sing Silent Night together.

Blessing Poem

First Coming, by Madeleine L'Engle

*He did not wait till the world was ready,
till men and nations were at peace.
He came when the Heavens were unsteady,
and prisoners cried out for release.*

*He did not wait for the perfect time.
He came when the need was deep and great.
He dined with sinners in all their grime,
turned water into wine.*

*He did not wait till hearts were pure.
In joy he came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.
To a world like ours, of anguished shame
he came, and his Light would not go out.*

*He came to a world which did not mesh,
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh
the Maker of the stars was born.*

*We cannot wait till the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voice,
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!*

Carol

Joy to the the World

GTG #134

Postlude