

A close-up photograph of a Christmas tree. The image is filled with dark green pine needles and numerous warm white, out-of-focus lights that create a bokeh effect. The text is overlaid in a white, gothic-style font.

the light
shines in the
darkness,
and the
darkness
has not
overcome it.

Prelude

Welcome and Call to Worship

The season for watching and waiting is over.
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

This is the Light of the world, and the darkness cannot extinguish it.

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Tell of his salvation from day to day.

**Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples.**

Say among the nations, "The Lord is King!"
Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice.

Prayer of Adoration

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

"Joy to the World" Litany

Eternal God, we bow before the mystery of your incarnation.
We praise you that you entered into the darkness of our world to be our light,
to be God with us. We lift up to you all those who are in darkness,
who need to know your intimate presence. We pray for those grieving,
for those suffering, for those who are lonely, for those who are afraid.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come.

Merciful God, we remember the millions in our world who have been made
refugees, who have sought asylum in lands not their own, who are displaced,
homeless, landless, or lost—all whose experience you have made your own
in the life of your Son, who was laid in a manger and had no place to lay his head.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come.

Loving God, our hearts are heavy with the sufferings of this world.
We remember the many victims of political power and greed: the innocent
killed in war and violence, those missing or taken hostage, and our
own brothers and sisters in Christ who are tortured or put to death—
all whose lot your Son shared by being born when Herod was king.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come.

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1–20

Greeting of Peace

Our Offerings

Lord, who are we that we are able to give so generously?

For all things come from you and what we now offer is already yours.

(FROM 1 CHRONICLES 29:14)

Offertory: “O Holy Night”

Doxology

Video Testimony

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:2–7

Sermon: “The Light in the Darkness” (Corey Widmer)

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

(7:00 SERVICE ONLY)

“Silent Night! Holy Night!”

Benediction

Postlude



Thank you for joining us this Christmas Eve!

If you're new with us, we hope to meet you soon. Our regular Sunday morning services are at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. If you'd like to learn more about Third Church and how you can be a part of our community, visit thirdrva.org/meet-third.



Poinsettia Contributions

Agnes Smith, in thanksgiving to God for all his blessings.

Will and Elisabeth Hayes, in memory of their son, William Brice Hayes.

From Third Finance, in memory of Brice Hayes.

Josh and Margaret Barefoot, in memory of all the loved ones they miss,
including Margaret's parents, David and Janet Murphy.

Darden Cave, in memory of John Sevier Cave, Jr.

BJ Saunders, in memory of Billie McCray, with love and remembrance.
Also with love and kindness for Caroline and Rick Hutton and Bob McCray.

Leslie Williford (BJ Saunders' daughter), in memory of and gratitude for Billie McCray.

Gretchen Malik, in memory of Billie McCray.

The Massie family in memory of our husband and father,
Jimmie, and in memory of our sister-in-law and aunt, Martha.

Patty and Ben Pomeroy, in memory of Debbie Pomeroy and Jerry Ramsey.

The Cherry family, in memory of loved ones.

Gary and Marlene Van Brocklin, in dedication to Gary's parents,
Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Van Brocklin, and in dedication to
Marlene's parents, Dr. and Mrs. J. Neil Medefind.

Debbie Payne, in honor of Chris and Becca Payne.

Lee and Susanna Sauvain, in memory of Billie McCray,
Mary Ann Hancock and Elizabeth Flanary.

In loving memory of Marian Leigh Carter by the Daniel family.

Catie and Yero Rudzinskas, in honor of Frank and Leslie Venable.

Catie and Yero Rudzinskas, in honor of Allen and Hildegard Dunaway.

Catie and Yero Rudzinskas, in honor of Amy Armstrong and Vytas Rudzinskas.