

Christmastide 2014

GATHERING

SEEKERS CHURCH
A Christian Community
In the Tradition of Church of the Saviour



Christmastide

ENTRANCE

REFLECTION

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 neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign.

Christina Rossetti

CANDLE LIGHTING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader:

God of all creation,

today we remember the

promise we have heard

Voice 1: from your prophet Isaiah:
The people who walked in gloom
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land
of deep shadows,

Voice 2: on them has light shined.
For to us a child is born,
to us an heir is given;
and the government will be
upon his shoulder:

mighty God,
Wonderful, Counsellor, The
The everlasting Father,
The Prince of Peace.

Leader: We gather as your community, O
God, waiting again for the sign
that you are among us.

All: Give us a fresh vision of
what it means to be your body
in this time and place.
Maranatha – come quickly

Lord Jesus. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

SILENCE

PRAYERS

CONFESSION

Leader: As love becomes flesh to live among us,
we learn what it means to love our
neighbors.

People: Yet we forget to comfort those who are
suffering;

and refuse to offer a helping hand
to those who are carrying more than
they can bear.

Leader: We pray for your coming reign of justice and peace.

People: Yet when we see injustice taking place before us,

we keep our indignation silently in our hearts,

rather than defending those who are mistreated.

Leader: Even as we feel guilty about our many failures,

we are quick to become smug about our spiritual successes.

All: Holy Lover, forgive us when we fail to be love made flesh.

ASSURANCE

Leader: Stars and angels are signs of love incarnate, reminders of God's forgiving grace, endlessly poured out for us and for the healing of the world.

All: Amen

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

All: O Holy One, we come today to claim our relationship with you.

We pray for the commitment to grow together, sharing the gifts you give us with others

here and in the wider world.

Forgive us for the hurt we have inflicted, and help us forgive those who have hurt us.

discipline
relationship with you;
your creation;
in solidarity with those in need;
and violence, and discord;
when you call,
as you have shown the way.

Give us strength and
to nurture our
to care for every part of
to foster justice and be
to work to end all war,
and to respond joyfully
freely giving our selves

creation
Christ. Amen.

We open our hearts to you and your
in the name of Jesus, who is the

HYMN

THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

SERMON

SILENT REFLECTION

OFFERING

SHARED REFLECTIONS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

BENEDICTION

Leader: Go into the world in peace.

Have courage; hold onto what is good;
return to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support
the weak;

help the suffering; honor all people;
love and serve God,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy

Spirit.

And the peace of God,
which surpasses all understanding,
will guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.

All: Amen.