

Thursday, December 24th – Christmas Eve

Lighting the Christmas Candle (centre) Celebrate

“I bring you good tidings of great joy which will come to all people; for to you is born this day a Saviour, Christ the Lord” *Luke 2:10-11*



We light this candle in the centre of the circle, remembering the Creator, the fire at centre of all life. We light this candle to celebrate the Son of our Creator, born on the earth. We light this candle symbolizing Christ, whose radiance shines out into all four directions and whose presence enlivens every stage of life. We give thanks for the birth of Jesus who brings new light and new life to us all.

Prayer Creator, you have revealed yourself to us through Jesus Christ. May we joyfully celebrate the gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh. May his light illuminate our hearts and shine in our words and deeds. With the light of Christ in our lives, unite us to you and strengthen us to serve you all our days. **Amen**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless
sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the
years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels
keep their watch of wond'ring
love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing—let “Glory!”
ring with peace to all on earth!

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of the heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive
him still the dear Christ enters
in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray,
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today!
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell.
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.