

Merry Christmas
From Our House to Yours!
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 24, 2022, 5 PM



Groome Church

founded 1904

**601 Savannah Road
Historic Lewes, Delaware 19958**

Pastor: Reverend Dr. S. Willard Crossan III
Associate Pastor: Reverend Richard E. Evans

CHORALE PRELUDE FOR CHRISTMAS

BY MATTHEW N. LUNDQUIST

WORDS OF CALL

Zechariah 2:1-11

* CAROL OF PROCLAMATION

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

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Leader: Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all people for to you is born this day a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.

People: O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

CANDLE LIGHTING, GIFT OF THE SAVIOUR
LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE LITANY

Responsive Litany — See following page and back
THE PROCLAMATION

COLLECT FOR THE ILLUMINATION OF GOD’S LECTION

Almighty and everlasting God, Lord, our Heavenly Father, whose word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path: Open and enlighten our minds that we may understand your word, so in understanding it you might enable us to fashion our lives in accordance with the peace, love, beauty and majesty of this most holy season; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

* THE BIDDING PRAYER

* THE LORD’S PRAYER

Congregation

FIRST LESSON

“The Prophecy”

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Meditation

“Of the Teaching of Truth”

by Thomas à Kempis

Choir

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

by Hal Hopson

SECOND LESSON

The Price of Peace”

Isaiah 11:1-9

Meditation

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

by Sy Mille, Jill Jackson

* Response

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” vs. 1, 2, 4

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THIRD LESSON

“The Annunciation”

Luke 1:26-33, 38

Meditation

“Mercy”

by William Shakespeare

Choir

“How Quietly”

by Joel Ramsey

FOURTH LESSON

“The Nativity”

Luke 2:1, 3-7

Meditation

“What Child is This?”

by William Dix

* Response

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

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FIFTH LESSON

“Visitation of the Shepherds”

Luke 2:8-16

Meditation

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

by Christina Rossetti

Choir

“A Carol of Hope”

by Don Besig

SIXTH LESSON

Meditation

*Response

"The Wise Men lead by the star of Jesus"

"The Meaning of Christmas"

"We Three Kings"

by Cardinal Spellman

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SEVENTH LESSON

Meditation

*Response

"The Incarnation"

"Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light"

"Angels We Have Heard On High"

John 1:1-14

by John Rist

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CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST**CALL TO COMMUNION**

I John 4:7, 9

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS: We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to partake of this Sacrament of your Son Jesus Christ that we may walk in newness of life, may grow into his likeness, and may evermore dwell in Him and He is us. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING*See Insert*

Distribution of the Elements (Hymns Played softly)

SHARING THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD CANDLE LIGHTING**MUSICAL RESPONSE**

"Silent Night"

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COLLECT FOR THE RECOGNITION OF CHRIST'S BIRTH

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ. Grant that we, who joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer may with sure confidence, behold Him when He comes to be our Judge: who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one god, now and forever. Amen.

ONE SOLITARY LIFE*Rev. Dr. Crossan***THE BLESSING**

* CAROL OF REJOICING

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

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* *Please Stand***CHRISTMAS EVE, GIFT OF THE SAVIOUR***Responsive Litany*

Tonight, we celebrate the one moment, the one birth, and the one life that forever changed the world!

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Because you came to us, we have experienced the ultimate hope to combat even the darkest moments.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Because you came to us, we have seen the fullness of love to the highest degree.

Continued on the back

Responsive Litany cont'd

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Because you came to us we have seen the face of peace in its purest form.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Tonight, we celebrate your birth that unleashes hope, peace, and joy into the world from now until the day of your return.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

READERS:

**First Lesson: Retta Rose Frampton • Second Lesson: Debbie Foxx • Third Lesson: Mark Lyman
Fourth Lesson: Connie Shockley • Fifth Lesson: Charles Sheppard
Sixth Lesson: Rev. Rich Evans • Seventh Lesson: Rev. Dr. Willard Crossan**



The Annunciation

by Botticelli, ca. 1485–92

The above painting depicts a row of pillars dividing the space occupied by the Angel Gabriel from the bed chamber of the Virgin kneeling in humility as she receives his divine message.

Groome Church

Pastor: Rev. Dr. S. Willard Crossan III • Associate Pastor: Rev. Richard E. Evans

Music Director: Chris Myers • Organist: Nancy Schaefer

Sound Technician: John Beauchamp

•

Office Manager: Beverly Cunningham

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