Welcome!

“No matter where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here!” More than words, we are all here because of God’s love, grace, and mercy. This is a community united by the honesty of our shared brokenness and the healing we receive through Christ.

How to Participate: Script in bold print is for everyone to read aloud and un-bolded script is said by worship leaders. Song lyrics are available on the screen and music labeled as Chalice # is available in the hymnals located in the pews. Printed music for all sung pieces and can be found in the large print bulletins.

COVID Protocol: The CDC currently recommends universal indoor masking, regardless of vaccination status. Church of the Apostles cares deeply about all people who use our building and will be following the CDC recommendations.

Get Connected: Use a Welcome Card to share your presence and prayer requests with us. To get more connected, signup online for the “Weekly Announcements” and “Crown Newsletter,” like us on Facebook or follow us on Instagram, give us a call, or send an email. It is our joy to know you!

Restrooms: Are available in the hallway to your left when you exit the sanctuary.

Electronic Devices: Remember to silence your device while in the sanctuary. Wi-Fi is provided through “Apostles Guest.” No password is needed.

You are a blessing: Let us know how we might better partner with you in this journey of faith and life. If you have thoughts, recommendations, or simply would like to join in prayer, we would love to hear from you!
Order of Worship

We Open the Door
“Love Comes to Us at Christmas”

Love comes to us at Christmas
Love comes to heal our souls.
Love brings an invitation
that our hearts might be made whole.
As we gather at the stable
in the darkness, glad and grateful
for the sacred in our midst,
for wonder and delight,
Christ is born in us this night.

Advent Candle Lighting 
Weston Koehler

Love comes to us at Christmas
Love comes to heal our souls.
Love brings an invitation
that our hearts might be made whole.
As we gather at the stable
in the darkness, glad and grateful
for the sacred in our midst,
for wonder and delight,
Christ is born in us this night.

The Peace 
Maxwell Koehler
(Please rise in body or in Spirit.)

Leader: The Light of Christ be with you!
All: And also with you!

Opening Carol: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel 
Chalice #119 (St.1,2,4)

(Please be seated)

Call to Confession
All: When the shadows of sin and sorrow surround us, shine on us with the light of your comfort and grace. When the despair of the world overwhelm us, lift us with your promise of hope. When we forget the good news of your presence, cry out with your message of love. In Christ’s name, we pray
(Time of silent reflection and listening to the Still Speaking God.)

Assurance of Grace

Hymn: Lo, How a Rose E’re Blooming (Chalice #160)

Children’s Time
Make room for family. Make room for friends.  
**We make room for Jesus.**  
Make way for love that never ends.  
**We make room for Jesus.**  
Make room for others who need a hand.  
**We make room for Jesus.**  
Make room to listen, to understand.  
**We make room for Jesus. Amen.**

    Make room for light.  
    Make room for light.  
    Jesus is coming, make room for light.  
    **Make room for light.**  
    **Make room for light.**  
    Jesus is coming, make room for light.

The Prophecy: Isaiah 9:2-7  
Mason Koehler
Carol: Come, O Long-expected Jesus (Chalice #125)


Special Music: Jesu Bambino – Yon  
Elizabeth Stolzfus - Violin

Sermon: “The Inn”

Prayers of the Community

“Make of My Heart a Stable”

Make of my heart a stable,  
a house for the holy,
a warm and sturdy place
for light to live and grow.

Make of my life a stable,
a house for the holy,
a warm and sturdy place
for light to live and grow.

Make of our church a stable,
a house for the holy,
a warm and sturdy place
for light to live and grow.

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us as we forgive others. And let us not fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Story Continues... Luke 2:8-20  Violet Koehler

Carol: Angels We Have Heard on High  (Chalice #155)

Sacrament of Communion

Leader: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them to God.
Leader: Now let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: How good it is to give thanks and praise!

Leader: And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
All: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might;
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Sharing the Elements

(Please rise in body or in spirit)
Prayer of Thanksgiving
All: Life-giving God, may we, who share Christ’s body, live his risen life; we, who drink his cup, bring new life to others;
we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world.  
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,  
so that we and all your children shall be free,  
and all creation will live to praise your name.  Amen.

Closing Carol:  Silent Night   Martin/Adams

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild.  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love’s pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Christmas Prayer

Carol: Joy to the World
Joy to the world the Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns; Let us our songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Benediction
(Please be seated)

Silent Meditation & Tolling Bell

Postlude: Waltz of the Flowers – Tchaikovsky  
Weston Koehler - Piano

If you wish to leave during the postlude, please do so quietly and respectfully,  
attentive to those who wish to stay and listen.
Go into all the world to love and serve all people in the fullness of Christ’s love!

[Liturgy from Worship Design Studio series “The Inn: Housing the Holy” written by Marcia McFee and used by permission and from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2021 has been used and adapted in this service. Hymns licensed by: One License – annual license w/ podcasting renewal: category D A-708862 and CCLI – copyright license 1193972 Size B / streaming license CSPL108972 Size B]
1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here,
Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here,
adjacent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show, far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show,
heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quarrels cease; heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quarrels cease;

Refrain Harmony

un - till the Son of God ap - pear. and death’s deep shad - ows put to flight.
and cause us in her ways to go. Re - joice, re - joice!
fill the whole world with heav - en’s peace.

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

WORDS: Latin hymn (12th century); st. 1-2 tr. John Mason Neale, 1851; VENI EMMANUEL
st. 3-4 tr. Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916 LM
MUSIC: French melody (15th century); arr. and harm. Thomas Helmore, 1854
Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming

1. Lo, how a rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung, of Jesse’s lineage coming by mind; with Mary we behold it, the faithful prophets sung; it came a flow’ret bright, amid the cold of winter when half spent was the night.

2. Isaiah ‘twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the virgins mother kind. To show God’s love a-right she bore to us a Savior when half spent was the night.

WORDS: German carol (15th century); tr. Theodore Baker, 1894
MUSIC: Traditional melody; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1609

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Come, O Long-expected Jesus

1. Come, O long-expected Jesus, born to set your people free.
2. Born your people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king,

From our fears and sins release us; Christ, in whom our rest shall be,
born to reign in us forever, born your gracious realm to bring.

You, our strength and consolation, come salvation to impart;
By your own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;

dear desire of many a nation, joy of many a longing heart.
by your all-sufficient merit raise us to your glorious throne.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744
MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830; harm. The English Hymnal, 1906
Angels We Have Heard on High

1. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous
3. Come to Bethlehem and see Christ, who comes in
4. See within a manger laid, Christ, whom choirs of

angels praise; Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply
strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be
lowly birth. Come adore on bended knee

angels praise; Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while our hearts in love we raise. Ah!

echoing their joyous strains.
which inspire your heav'nly song?
Jesus, joy of heav'n and earth.
while our hearts in love we raise.

WORDS: Traditional French carol; tr. Crown of Jesus, 1862, alt.
MUSIC: French carol melody; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937;

GLORIA

77.77 w. refrain