

GATHERING MUSIC

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

WORSHIP IN SONG

O Come, All Ye Faithful (vss. 1, 3, 4, & 6)

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Kruse Family

WORSHIP IN SONG

Wherever You Are (Refrain Only)

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

ABC's of Christmas by Erin Klassen

THE PROCLAMATION

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

SPECIAL MUSIC | *Gloria Hodie*

Handbell Choir

LETTERS A-E

CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem (vss. 1, 2, & 4)

LETTERS F-I

REFLECTION | *God's Invitation*

LETTERS J-M

CAROL | *Away in a Manger*

LETTERS N-O

GATHERING OF OUR GIFTS

Gifts can be shared at

redmondumc.org/give

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

LETTERS P-Q

CAROL

Silent Night, Holy Night

LETTERS R-T

CAROL | *The First Noel*

LETTERS U-Z

CAROL

Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)

BENEDICTION

MUSIC FOR DEPARTURE

Joy to the World

A is for the Angel Gabriel, who begins our story with these words to Mary: "Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!"

B is for Bethlehem, where our story takes place. People traveled from far and wide to arrive in the city; it was a very busy place.

C is for a census (that's a counting of all the people) and the reason so many people filled the city of Bethlehem.

D is for the donkey that carried Mary and Joseph on their long journey to Bethlehem to be counted. The Bible says: While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have the baby. There were no rooms left in the inn.

E is for exhausted, that's how everyone felt when they arrived – tired from all the travelling.

F is for family: Mary and Joseph and their new baby Jesus, who was born that night in Bethlehem. Mary wrapped the baby with cloths and laid him in a box where animals are fed.

G is for Good News! The news that Jesus was born was good for all creatures of the earth – goats, giraffes, guinea pigs and guppies!

H is for herds of animals that were present in the stable that special night.

I is for our imaginations, stirred by this story! And for invitation, we are all invited by God!

J is for the joyous news the angels brought to the shepherds who were watching their flocks by night. As the Scripture says, "That night, some shepherds were in the fields nearby watching their sheep. An angel of the Lord stood before them. The angel said to them, 'Don't be afraid, because I am bringing you some good news. It will be a joy to all the people. Today your Savior was born in David's town. He is Christ, the Lord. This is how you will know him: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a feeding box.' So the shepherds went quickly and found Mary and Joseph. And the shepherds saw the baby lying in a feeding box. Then they told what the angels had said about this child."

K is for kindness, shown by angels to shepherds and the innkeeper to Mary and Joseph. Kindness is what Jesus wants us to show each other.

L is for the love we share with one another all through the year and especially at Christmas.

M is for the manger, it is usually used to hold food for animals, but this time it held the baby because he had no crib.

N is for Noel, another word for Christmas. It means new birth, that's what happened in our story, and we celebrate it every year.

O is for offering, there were many gifts for the baby; we have some to share now!

P is for prayer and praise and pondering, all different ways people responded to the birth of Jesus. Who do we pray for tonight?

Q is for quiet, the deep peace that Christmas brings knowing that God is with us. Let's turn our prayer into song as we sing about that deep peace.

R is for royalty, three magi who saw a star of royal beauty shining bright

S is for the special star that shone bright in the night sky.

T is for traveling caravan that trusted the star to show the wise ones the way to Jesus

U is for unity, all the different people brought together tonight to celebrate God's love!

Many: **V** is for vulnerable, a little child needs to be cared for, protected—that's our job.

W is for wonder—our amazement at the beauty of how much God loves us.

Many: **X** is for Xylophone, and all the instruments that play wonderful music celebrating Jesus!

Y is for You! You are here to worship

Many: **Z** is for zeal, the passion with which we go out and share the Good News of God's love with the world.