

Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, *“Glory to God in the highest heaven,*

and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Message: Light ... Shines in the Darkness Pastor Diane

***Closing Hymn:** #239 *“Silent Night”* verses 1 - 4

The ushers will distribute the light
by starting with those seated along the aisle.

Please share the light with those seated next to you.

Keep lighted candles upright – tip only unlit candles.

As candles are being lit, please observe a moment of silence
for those apart from their families this season.

***Extinguish Candles** – Remember to take your poinsettias
after tonight’s service.

***Benediction**

“This service is ended, but our life in Jesus Christ goes on and on. We go now, in His name, into all the world. May our light so shine and our joy be so obvious that all who see us may come to praise God.”

***Postlude** *“Once in Royal David's City”*