

A large, vibrant red poinsettia flower is in the foreground on the left side of the page. The background is a soft-focus image of warm, glowing yellow and orange bokeh lights, suggesting out-of-focus Christmas lights.

Poinsettias Decorating the Chancel

In memory of **Mason Enger** and our parents
—Don & Bev Enger

In memory of **Milly Hanson**
—Hanson family

In memory of **Doris & Roy Jacobson, Carol Jacobson, & Mike Jacobson**
—Charles Jacobson family

In memory of **Omund & Peggy Jacobson**
—Bruce & Kay Jacobson

In memory of **loved ones**
—Gordon & Virlyn Hoff

In memory of **loved ones**
—Kevin & Anita Tulp

In memory of **Darin Malec**
—Malec families

In memory of **Connie Olson** and **Dorothy & Vince Olson**
—Becky Kuss family

In honor and memory of **parents** and **grandparents**
—from Kim & Joel Owen & family

In memory of **Dale & Marcyne Pederson**
—Neil & Kelly Pederson

In memory of **Dorothy Roorda**
—Perry Roorda

In memory of **Alyce & George Schlittenhardt**, and **Vicky Olson**
—Neil & Kelly Pederson

Christmas Eve Gifts

We invite every family present to take home a gift from our congregation. This year's ornament is in the shape of a tree with the names of Jesus as it's branches.

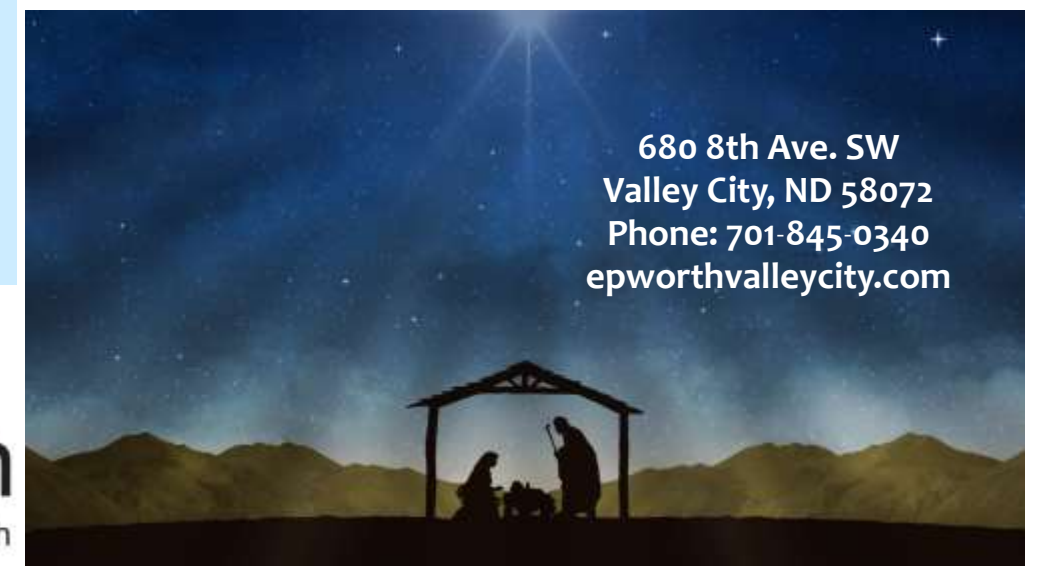
Christmas Offering

We do not take tonight's offering for the church, but rather for ministries that benefit others outside of the church. It has become an Epworth Christmas tradition to give away our Christmas Eve offering. This demonstrates that we are God's people and that the birth of Christ came as great joy for all people – those in this church, those around this community, and those farther away.

Tonight's offering will defray education-related expenses for Rydel Samuelson, our seminarian & candidate for ordained ministry.



Christmas Eve Worship
December 24, 2022
5:00 & 7:00 p.m.



680 8th Ave. SW
Valley City, ND 58072
Phone: 701-845-0340
epworthvalleycity.com

Christmas Eve Service Saturday, December 24, 2022

Please Note: (+) You are invited to stand as able.
Large print hymnals and bulletins are available upon request to an usher.

The Church Gathers to Worship

+Welcome to worship tonight. We invite everyone present to fully participate in our celebration as we celebrate the birth of Christ.

+Call to Worship

Leader: Come worship on this magical night when angels and shepherds mingle and the birth of a baby changes the world.

People: We come to celebrate with joy and wonder.

Leader: Celebrate the light that shines all around us.

People: We will sing and praise our most wondrous God.

Leader: Let us kneel before the Christ child, who makes God's promises come true.

People: O Come, let us worship God.

Based on liturgy by Joanne Carlson Brown, © 2021

+Opening Carol—No. 234, *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (v. 1-2, 5-6)

Lighting Christmas Candles

Leader: Tonight, we offer the Lights of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love to illumine the Door of Welcome.

People: And we add the brightest light of all — the Light of the Newborn Jesus.

It shines brightly like the star that rose over Bethlehem.

Leader: May this light also shine in our hearts, in our lives, and in our church.

People: May this light awaken us to possibilities and lead us to greater hospitality.

By Marcia McFee ©2021 www.worshipdesignstudio.com/theinn

Call to Prayer—No. 242, *Love Came Down at Christmas*

The Church Lifts Prayers to God

Prayer in Unison—

O God, Creator of life, you made us in your image and sent your Son to be our flesh. Grant us now in this glad time of His birth, that we, who have been born again through His grace, may daily find all things made new in Him. For He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

From The New Handbook of the Christian Year by H.L. Hickman, D.E. Sillers, et. al © 1986, 1992 by Abingdon Press

Call for Children—No. 217, *Away in a Manger* (vs. 1)

Time Mostly for Children—

Children's Dismissal—No. 217, *Away in a Manger* (vs. 2)



A GREAT
& MIGHTY
Wonder



The Church Hears God's Word

Lesson One—Micah 5:2-4

Meditation—*Bethlehem Revered in Prophecy*

Carol—No. 230, *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (vs. 1 & 4)

Lesson Two—Luke 2:1-7

Meditation—*The Birth of Jesus Christ*

Carol—No. 246, *Joy to the World*

Lesson Three—Luke 2:8-14

Meditation—*Annunciation to Shepherds*

Carol—No. 240, *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*



The Church Responds to God's Word

Christmas Offering—

Tonight's Christmas Eve Offering will be given to the Rydel Samuelson Ministry Fund which will help defray his educational expenses for his last semester in seminary school at Garrett Evangelical Seminary.

Offertory—*Still, Still, Still*, —Bells by Jackie Owen & Katie Woehl, Amy Noeske, accompanist
Bells courtesy of VCSU Music Dept.

+Doxology—No. 95, *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

+Prayer of Dedication—

Lesson Four—Luke 2:15-20

Meditation—*Shepherds Become First to Visit Jesus*

+Lighting of the Candles— Please remember, that in order to limit burns and spilled wax, hold the lit candle upright and tip only the unlit candle. As our service ends, please be careful of liquid wax.

Carol—No. 239, *Silent Night, Holy Night*

+Dismissal with Blessing—

Leader: Go in peace, go in joy to serve God and neighbor in all that you do.

People: We are sent in the name of the Christ child.

Leader: The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds

in the knowledge and love of God through Jesus Christ.

May that be what it means for you to have a Merry Christmas.

People: Thanks be to God, and Merry Christmas.

Based on a benediction in The New Handbook of the Christian Year by H.L. Hickman, D.E. Sillers, et. al © 1986, 1992 by Abingdon Press

+Postlude—

