

**Embody Spirit:
Walk the Labyrinth
December 30, 2023 – January 2024**



Join us in this age-old spiritual practice of reflection and prayer.
Merge your body, mind, and spirit as you walk the Labyrinth to resonate with God in your life and in the world.

First Baptist invites you to walk a Labyrinth in our sanctuary during these hours:

Saturday, December 30	4:30-6:30
Sunday, December 31	2:00-4:00
Monday, January 1	4:30-6:30
Tuesday, January 2	10-1:00 and 4:30-6:30
Wednesday, January 3	10-1:00

All are welcome!



*First Baptist Church in Ithaca
Christmas Eve Order of Worship
December 24, 2023*

What does the Lord require of you?
To do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8

Prelude		“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” Christopher M Loy, piano, & Tony Lister, flute	
Welcome			
Call to Worship		Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7	
But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.			
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined.			
Lighting the Candles of Advent and the Christ Candle			
Leader: We watched, we have waited . . . lighting the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love. Now our redemption is here!			
Congregational Response: Glory to God in the Highest!			
Opening Prayer			
Carol	“O Little Town of Bethlehem”		#144
Luke 2:1-7			
Special Music	“A Bed Made of Hay” Bruce Chandler and Anne Farrell		Lynn Koch
Young People’s Time			
Luke 2:8-14			
Carol	“Angels from the Realms of Glory”		#149
Luke 2:15-20			
Choral Anthem	“Candlelight Carol”		John Rutter
Meditation	The Reverend Debbie Bennett Reynolds		
Choral Anthem	“The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy”		Brian Trant
John 1:1-5, 14			
Special Music		“O Holy Night”	Mark Lawrence, soloist
Lighting of the Candles			
Carol		Silent Night	
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 a far, 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			
Silent night, holy night, Wondrous star, lend thy light; With the angels, let us sing, alleluia to our King; Christ, the Savior is born, Christ, the Savior is born.			
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 all their 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		“Arise, shine, for your Light has come!”	Isaiah 60:1
Postlude			
*Please stand if you are able.			