

CHRIST: THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

LEADER: Sing to the Lord a new song! Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice before the Lord, who comes to set the world right and judge all the peoples with equity.

RESPONSE: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth, peace among those whom God favors.

LEADER: Shepherds on the night shift, keeping watch over their flock, heard the angel say: "Do not be afraid; I bring you good news of great joy for all the people. To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."

RESPONSE: Good news of great joy for all people! Let the whole earth sing.

LEADER: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, and this is the sign: a child wrapped in bands of cloth, lying in a manger.

RESPONSE: O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him! We come now to adore thee, Christ the Lord.

Light all candles.

ALL: We light the Christ candle today. The One who was, and who is, and who is to come *has* come, born among the poor in an occupied land, a refugee child who found shelter in Africa, and a light no darkness can overcome. Our hope kept awake, our peace prepared the way, our joy bore witness, and our love opened wide, and here he is: Emmanuel, God with us, God with all peoples. Amen.