



It's not that unusual
When everything is beautiful
It's just another **ordinary** miracle today

— Sarah McLachlan

Prelude to Worship

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Call to Worship

This is a night of deep mystery — **a night when heaven comes to earth.**
This is a night of great love — **a night when a child is born for us.**
This is a night of incredible joy — **a night when angels sing to shepherds.**

Glory to God in the highest! Peace to all on earth. Incarnate One, Light of the World, Prince of Peace, draw close to us we pray. In the darkness of this night, open our eyes to love anew. Open our hearts to wonder at your love, that we may reflect your glory. **O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

*Hymn #133 ***O Come All Ye Faithful***

*Scripture Reading *John 1, selected verses*

Gathering Prayer

**O Immanuel, O Wisdom from on high,
We rejoice and are glad on this gracious Christmas eve,
for truly you have come, full of grace and truth.
Even now, come into our hearts again.
Show us the path of your knowledge.
Comfort us in our deep mourning.
Save us from our stubborn sins.
Open wide the way to heaven.
Turn our darkness into light.
End our sad divisions and
be our Prince of peace. Amen.**

Hymn #121 ***O Little Town of Bethlehem***

Welcome and Congregational Greeting

Affirmation of Faith *1998 Presbyterian Study Catechism*

Question 32. **What do we affirm when we say Jesus was "conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary"?**

First, that being born of a woman, Jesus was truly a human being. Second, that our Lord's incarnation was a holy and mysterious event, brought about solely by free divine grace surpassing any human possibilities. Third, that from the very beginning of his life on earth, he was set apart by his unique origin for the sake of accomplishing our salvation.

Question 33. **What is the significance of affirming that Jesus is truly God?**

Only God can properly deserve worship. Only God can reveal to us who God is. And only God can save us from our sins. Being truly God, Jesus meets these conditions. He is the proper object of our worship, the self-revelation of God, and the Savior of the world.

Question 34. **What is the significance of affirming that Jesus is also truly a human being?**

Being truly human, Jesus entered fully into our fallen situation and overcame it from within. By his pure obedience, he lived a life of unbroken unity with God, even to the point of accepting a violent death. As sinners at war with grace, this is precisely the kind of life we fail to live. When we accept him by faith, he removes our disobedience and clothes us with his perfect righteousness.

Musical Offering

Prayers of the People

Hymn #115 ***Away in a Manger***

Scripture Reading *Luke 2:1-20*

Sermon *Just another Ordinary Miracle this night*

Musical Offering

Sharing the Communion Meal

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks
to the Lord our God.

**It is right for us
to give thanks and praise ...**

Sharing the Light of Christ

Hymn #122

Silent Night, Holy Night

Benediction

