

JAY GOULD MEMORIAL REFORMED CHURCH
January 4, 2026 ONLINE ORDER OF WORSHIP

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Prelude: "Lully, Lullay, Thou Little Tiny Child", arr. Rodney Abriol,
© 2023 Lorenz Pub. Co., a div. of the Lorenz Corp. Mr. Dan Chien, Organist/Choir Dir.

Introit: "Who Would Send a Baby?", Mary Kay Beall,
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Call to Worship Rev. Richard A. Dykstra
L: As we are called into worship today, it is sobering to remember that when God appeared on earth in the person of Jesus, most of the world did not recognize him and therefore did not worship him. Today we ask for the faith that will open our eyes to see Jesus for who he is, that we might worship him in truth. People of God, behold and see your God!

P: We open our eyes to see his glory. We open our ears to hear his wisdom.
We open our hands to offer him gifts. We open our mouths to sing his praise.
We open our hearts to offer him our love. He is Lord!

Hymn: "The First Noel"

Prayer of Invocation

Our Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)

We confess, O God, that we pack Christmas away and move on to New Year celebrations all too quickly, forgetting that the work of Christmas has just begun. We would rather ignore the politics, civil and religious that were set in motion by Jesus' birth. We confess that we would rather not see the outer reality of our world, or the inner reality of our own lives. Forgive us for insulating ourselves in the niceness of the nativity, for choosing to avoid the struggle of the powers of this earth that threaten the reign of Christ... (silent prayer). Amen.

Words of Assurance

The Service of Baptism for Elijah Wright (see insert)

Anthem: "Come, Be Baptized", G. Alan Smith, arr. Jack Schrader,
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Scripture: Matthew 2:1-23 Andi Cammer, Reader

Sermon: "A Word of Hope for a Hard World"

Offertory: "When the Angels' Song Is Silent", by Mary Kay Beall,
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Prayer of Dedication

Doxology

Prayers of Intercession

Hymn: "What Child is This?"

Benediction

Choral Response: "When the Angels' Song Is Silent" (*Reprise*)

Postlude: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly", arr. Heather Sorensen, © 2012 Hope Pub. Co.