

Christmas Eve Service

Saturday, December 24th, 2022

Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella

*Setting by C. Uehlein
Organ: Kathleen Healy-Wedsworth*

O Come, O Come Immanuel

*Natalie Sleeth
Sung by Chancel Choir*

Congregational Carol: #140

Once In Royal David City

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild;
Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.

The First Noel

*Setting by Thompson/Callahan
Played by Jubilee Bells*

Welcome to the World

*Chris Rice/Jack Schrader
Sung by Jeni Weber*

What Child Is This

*Setting by Gary Lanier
Saxophone: Rich Vodhanel*

Congregational Carol: #128

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging angels singing,
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!

Mary Did you Know

*Setting by Lloyd Larson
Sung by Jeni Weber & Sean Starke*

First Noel Medley

*Gail Leven Pollock
Organ: Kathleen Healy-Wedsworth
Piano: Marcello Velame*

December 24th, 2022

*Our PCAS Vision: "To be a Light by Living, Loving, Learning,
and Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ."*

*Order of Worship
(*Please rise in body and/or spirit)*

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candles

We light these candles to recall all we have hoped for during Advent, all that we have publicly named and privately prayed for. We open ourselves in faith to the work of God in fulfilling humanity's greatest need.

Candle 1: The Word of the Lord from Malachi 3:1

Candle 2: The Word of the Lord from Isaiah 7:14

Candle 3: The Word of the Lord from Isaiah 40:9-11

Candle 4: The Word of the Lord from Isaiah 2:3b-5

Anthem: Were You There On That Christmas Night?

Natalie Sleeth

Sung by Chancel Choir & Accompanied by Jubilee Bells

Call to Worship

Leader: It is not true
that creation and the human family
are doomed to destruction and loss—

This is true:

**People: For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten
Son,**

**that whoever believes in Him shall not perish
but have everlasting life;**

Leader: It is not true
that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination,
hunger and poverty, death and destruction -

This is true:

People: I have come that they may have life, and that abundantly.

Leader: It is not true
that violence and hatred should have the last word,
and that war and destruction rule forever -
This is true:

**People: Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given,
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
his name shall be called wonderful counselor, mighty God,
the Everlasting, the Prince of peace.**

Leader: It is not true
that we are simply victims of the powers of evil
who seek to rule the world—
This is true:

**People: To me is given authority in heaven and on earth,
and lo I am with you, even until the end of the world.**

Leader: It is not true
that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted,
who are the prophets of the Church
before we can be peacemakers—
This is true:

**People: I will pour out my spirit on all flesh
and your sons and daughters shall prophesy,
your young men shall see visions
and your old men shall have dreams.**

Leader: It is not true
that our hopes for liberation of humankind,
of justice, of human dignity of peace
are not meant for this earth and for this history -
This is true:

**People: The hour comes, and it is now,
that the true worshipers shall worship God
in spirit and in truth.**

Leader: So let us enter Christmas in hope,
even hope against hope.
Let us see visions of love and peace and justice.
Let us affirm with humility, with joy, with faith, with courage:
Jesus Christ—the life of the world.

Lighting of the Christ Candle: Isaiah 9:2, 9:6-7

***Carol #133** O Come, all Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant;
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him,
born the King of angels!

Refrain:

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*

True God from true God,
Light from light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
very God, begotten, not created! *[Refrain]*

Sing, choirs of angels;
sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!! *[Refrain]*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! *[Refrain]*

The Gospel of Fulfillment - Matthew 1:18-25

The Story of the Birth of Christ - Luke 2:1-20

*** Carol #113** Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song? *Refrain*

Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain*

Bells: Kathleen Healy– Wedsworth and Sue Martin

Christmas Meditation: Rev. Gruening

Offering

Offertory: Angels We Have Heard on High

Setting by Arnold Sherman
Played by Jubilee Bells

Prayer of Dedication

Service of Light

Christmas Prayer

Leader: God of our Salvation,
we come to you on this wondrous night to gather in praise,
to lift up your name with friend, family, and stranger.
In the beginning, your creative work began with a word,
and tonight, your creation continues with the Word made flesh.
On this holiest of nights, we join the everlasting chorus saying:

People: Glory to God on highest! Great is your name in all the earth!

Leader: Like Mary, we ponder these things in our hearts,
and wonder how you could love us so much
as to actually become one of us, one with us.
We remember these stories this evening
that remind us of your steadfast love,
that affirm that you have never, and will never, give up on your children.
People: Thank you for your steadfast presence in our lives!

Leader: And yet, even on this night on which we celebrate the fulfillment of love,
we recognize that there are many who are still waiting for fulfillment:
the fulfillment of adequate food and shelter...
the fulfillment of peace and the end of violence...
the fulfillment of reprieve from the fierce grip of grief...
the fulfillment of a restoration of a broken relationship...
the fulfillment of a renewing of heart, mind, or body...
the fulfillment of healing from a chronic illness...

Giving God,

**People: give us the courage to do your work in the world
and to share the peace coming to us in the manger this evening.**

Leader: We pray this night especially for those who have traveled to be here...

for those who will be traveling in the coming days and weeks...

for those who work on Christmas: especially medical workers, police,
and emergency personnel...

for those who cannot make it home for Christmas...

hear us we pray, O God,

**People: Restore us and make your face to shine that we might be
saved.**

Leader: In all that we do and in all that we are,

send your Spirit to send us forward with the majesty of this night
and to share the grace we find with everyone we encounter.

This we pray in the name of your Son, who taught us to pray saying:

People: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,

for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.

Amen.

Sharing the Light of Christ

The ushers will light the candles of those sitting nearest the aisles.

*Please pass the light down the pew, tilting unlit candles and keeping lit
candles upright for safety. For those on Zoom, we invite you to turn your
camera on, your room lights off, and light a candle to join your light with
ours.*

*** Carol #122** 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 afar,
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.

The Light of the World: John 1:1-5

*** Carol: #133** 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.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

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

The loving kindness of the Lord our God,
the grace of Jesus Christ our Savior,
and the renewing power of the Holy Spirit
be with you all. **Alleluia!**

Go and tell this good news of great joy:
to us a Savior is born. **Amen!**

Postlude

In Dulci Jubilo Bell

Settings by Albert Zabel and Mary McDonald

Organ: Kathleen Healy-Wedsworth

Bells: Nancy & Rich Vodhanel, Sue Martin, Marcello Velame

Worship Leaders:

Pastor: Rev. Katja Gruening

Liturgist: Sean Starke

Advent Candle Lighting: Patricia and David Apy

Reader: Joel Davies

Zoom Host: Rich Vodhanel

Deacons: Peter Bruguiere, Sue Starke, Diane Suarez, & Rich Vodhanel

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

***The Christmas Poinsettias are dedicated to the Glory of God
and in Loving Memory of:***

***William, Helen & Robert Schanck and David & Ann Muyskens
by Bill & Kirsten Schanck***

***Rita & Harold Gallagher and William Wikoff Jr
By Bill & LJ Wikoff***

***Gladys & Richard Pearson and Barbara & Steve Vodhanel
By Nancy & Rich Vodhanel***

***Mr & Mrs BJ & Ernie Thompson and Mr. Andrew W Thompson
By Mary Jane & Hugh O'Hare***

***Ed & Doris Coccaro and Jean & Elwood Carter
By Mike & Debi Coccaro***

***Robert J Murphy, Charlotte & Douglas Fitzgerald,
and Helen Murphy
By Judith Murphy***

***Anita & Jack Mackay, Sr, Marie & Sergio Campagnola, Sr.,
and Virginia Hammond
By Jack, Michele, and Evan Mackay***

***The Broege Family, Edith & Joe Ackerman, Joy Pattin,
Jackson Mitchell, Missy Spratford
By Robert & Marilyn Broege***

***My husband, Joseph Davies; my sister, Pat Gasperini;
and my parents, Helen & Mel Halliday
By Joyce Davies***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Day

Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year, and we will be gathering at 10am for an informal service with the singing of many carols, an extended time of sharing Christmas joys, and a Christmas story for all ages. An opportunity for fellowship will follow in the Social Room.

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Sunday, January 1st, 2023 at 10:00

We will finish hearing the news of the Christmas Angels with the final chapter of the story – the angels who direct the Holy Family to safety.

Join us in celebrating the Lord's Supper, receiving the gift of Christ to wrap

up our observance of the Christmas season and begin the new year in God's grace.

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Sunday, January 8th, 2023

On this Sunday, we will have the opportunity to reconnect with our identity as baptized children of God. As many of us were baptized as babies, and because we celebrate the sacrament infrequently, it can be difficult to appreciate its ongoing meaning in our lives. We offer the opportunity this Sunday for you to remember and reaffirm God's covenant promises which are sealed to us in baptism. We will have a deep bowl of water filled with shells as a centerpiece of the liturgy.

Presbyterian Women Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Presbyterian Women will be held following worship on January 8th.