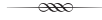


# Christmas Eve Service

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Man's maker was made man that He, Ruler of the stars, might nurse at His mother's breast; that the Bread might hunger, the Fountain thirst, the Light sleep, the Way be tired on its journey; that Truth might be accused of false witnesses, the Teacher be beaten with whips, the Foundation be suspended on wood; that Strength might grow weak; that the Healer might be wounded; that Life might die.

—Augustine of Hippo, Christmas Sermon, ca. 411 A.D.,  
Sermons 184-2292

Ere time its course began,  
I issued My decree,  
This day, My Son, the Son of Man,  
Have I begotten Thee.  
To Thee the world and all that live,  
Thy blood-bought heritage, I give!

Hear, then, ye monarchs, hear!  
Ye great, and greater own!  
Bow down with holy joy and fear,  
Before Messiah's throne!  
Upon Him life and death depend;  
O blest who find in Christ a friend!

—Henry Francis Lyte, "Psalm 2 (First Version)"

## LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

10:00 *The Stones*

12:00 *The Thompsons*

4:00 *The Browns*

6:00 *The Shanks*

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

—John 8:12

### ☒ CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 2

Leader: I will tell of the decree:  
The LORD said to me, "You are my Son;  
today I have begotten you.

ALL: *Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,  
and the ends of the earth your possession."*

Leader: Serve the LORD with fear,  
and rejoice with trembling.  
Kiss the Son,  
lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,  
for his wrath is quickly kindled.

ALL: *Blessed are all who take refuge in him.*

☒ *Congregation stand as able.*

## ❏ PRAYER OF ADORATION

Leader: Glory be to Thee, O Father Almighty,  
who has given Thine only-begotten Son,  
that we might live through Him.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ,  
who became man that we might become sons of God.

Glory be to Thee, O Holy Spirit,  
who does direct and rule our hearts.  
All glory be to Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
one God, world without end. Amen.

## ❏ HYMNS OF ADORATION

"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:  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
O sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:  
"Glory to God, all glory in the highest!"  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Words: Attr. John F. Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880).  
Music: John F. Wade's Cantus Diversi, 1751.

## ☒ "Angels We Have Heard On High"

Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echo back their joyous strains.

Gloria

In excelsis Deo,

Gloria

In excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say what may the tidings be,  
Which inspire your heav'nly song?

Gloria

In excelsis Deo,

Gloria

In excelsis Deo.

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

Gloria

In excelsis Deo,

Gloria

In excelsis Deo.

Gloria

In excelsis Deo,

Gloria

In excelsis Deo.

Words: traditional French carol. Music: traditional French melody;  
arr. by Edward S. Barnes, 1937.

## READING FROM THE PROPHETS

Isaiah 7:10-14

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: <sup>11</sup>"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." <sup>13</sup>And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

This is the Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

 CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by:  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n;  
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

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 PROFESSION OF FAITH

Galatians 4:4-7

*ALL: But when the fullness of time had come,  
God sent forth his Son,  
born of woman, born under the law,  
to redeem those who were under the law,  
so that we might receive adoption as sons.  
And because you are sons,  
God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts,  
crying, "Abba! Father!"  
So you are no longer a slave, but a son,  
and if a son, then an heir through God.*

**OFFERTORY***10:00 & 12:00*

"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"  
*Congregational Hymn*

God rest ye merry, gentlemen,  
Let nothing you dismay,  
Remember Christ our Savior  
Was born on Christmas day,  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r  
When we were gone astray;

Refrain:

O tidings of comfort and joy,  
Comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father,  
A blessed angel came;  
And unto certain shepherds  
Brought tidings of the same;  
How that in Bethlehem was born  
The Son of God by name.  
(Refrain)

"Fear not, then," said the angel,  
"Let nothing you affright:  
This day is born a Savior  
Of a pure virgin bright,  
To free all those who trust in him  
From Satan's pow'r and might."  
(Refrain)

The shepherds at those tidings  
Rejoiced much in mind,  
And left their flocks a feeding,  
In tempest, storm, and wind:  
And went to Bethlehem straight-way,  
The Son of God to find.  
(Refrain)

Words and Music: traditional English carol.



## OFFERTORY

4:00 & 6:00

"See Amid the Winter's Snow"

*Liz Richardson, soloist*

Alleluia! Alleluia!

See amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,  
See the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.  
Hail thou ever blessed morn! Hail redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Lo, within a manger lies He who built the lofty skies,  
He who, throned in light sublime, sits amid the cherubim.  
Hail thou ever blessed morn! Hail redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sacred infant, all divine, what a tender love was Thine,  
Thus to come from highest bliss down to such a world as this.  
Hail thou ever blessed morn! Hail redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Words: Edward Caswall (1858). Music: HUMILITY John Goss, (1871), arr. Dan Forrest.

*For our Christmas Eve offering, we have an opportunity to give to the Ministerial Relief Fund. In accordance with James 1:27, the PCA began the Ministerial Relief Fund to aid in the financial stress of the widows of our pastors and missionaries. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please use the designated envelope in your seat.*

**READING FROM THE GOSPELS**

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel"  
(which means, God with us).

<sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

All flesh is like grass,  
And all its glory is like the flower of the field.  
*The grass withers, the flower fades,*  
*But the word of our God stands forever.*



## PRAYER OF SUPPLICATION

### ☒ LIGHTING OF THE CHURCH

"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,  
 Heav'nly 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!

Words: Josef Mohr, ca. 1816. Stanzas 1 & 3 translated from German to English  
 by John F. Young, 1863. Music: Franz X. Gruber, ca. 1820.

### ☒ BENEDICTION