

Evening Worship

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2018

Come, Thou Redeemer of the earth.
We marvel at Thy humble birth:
How helpless babe in stable stall
Can be the God of one and all.

Begotten of no human will,
But of the Spirit Thou art still
The Word of God in flesh arrayed,
The Savior soon to man displayed.

O Equal to the Father, Thou,
Gird on Thy fleshly mantle now,
Fill all the world with heavenly light
And banish all the shades of night.

So come Redeemer, let us bring
All honor to our newborn King.
Let every age adoring fall;
Thy birth befits the God of all.

O Jesus, virgin-born, to Thee
Eternal praise and glory be,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore.

—Ambrose of Milan, 397

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

4:30 Lindsey Smith T

6:00 Lydia Powell

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world;
the one who follows me will not walk in darkness
but have the light of life."

We light this candle in gratitude for His first coming
and in anticipation of His glorious return.

He will come to bring light and life to His people.

Come, Lord Jesus, shine Your light upon Your people.

CALL TO WORSHIP

4:30 Marty Crawford

6:00 Dave Driskill

READING FROM THE PROPHETS

Isaiah 9:2, 6

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.

⁶For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF ADVENT

Congregation, please sing the Hymns for the Eucharist during Communion.

“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 men 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 and wonders of His love.

And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love,
And wonders and wonders of His love.

Words: Isaac Watts. Music: George Frederick Handel, arr. B Lowell Mason.

 *Congregation stand as able.*

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Almighty God, Who graciously sent Your One and Only Son
to be born of a peasant girl and laid in a manger
that we might be set free from the burden of sin and the fear of death,
we worship and adore You
and pray that this holy night You fill our hearts with grateful devotion
and lead us in the way everlasting,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Who with You and the Holy Spirit be forever praised. Amen.

FIRST READING FROM THE GOSPELS

4:30 *Taylor Brown*

6:00 *Kim Kilgore*

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. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But 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. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHRISTMAS HYMN

"Away in A Manger"

Away in a manger no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head;
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay;
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes;
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me I pray;
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

Words: Stanzas 1-2, Little Children's Book for Schools and Families, c. 1885; stanza 3, Gabriel's Vineyard Songs, 1892. Music: James R. Murray, 1887; arr. Jay Rouse, 2013.

☒ PROFESSION OF OUR FAITH: NICENE CREED

*I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God; begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.
Who, for us and for our salvation, came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again,
according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven,
and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again,
with glory, to judge the quick and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.*

*And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life;
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets.*

*And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

☒ HYMN OF INCARNATION

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending He;
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore!

O that birth forever blessed,
When a virgin, blest with grace;
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Savior of our race;
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face,
Evermore and evermore!

Let the heights of heaven adore Him;
Angel hosts His praises sing.
Powers, dominions, bow before Him,
And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent;
Every voice in concert ring,
Evermore and evermore!

Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee;
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving,
And unwearied praises be.
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore!
Evermore and evermore!
Evermore and evermore!

Words: Marcus Aurelius C. Prudentius, 4th century; tr. John M. Neale (1818-1866)
Music: PLAINSONG, 13th century.

GIVING OF FIRST FRUITS

"What Child is This"

Harrison Gorham and Jack Smith T

What child is this who laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate,
Where ox and sheep are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading;
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come peasant, king, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The babe the son of Mary.

Words: William C. Dix (1837-1898). Music: Traditional English melody, 16th century, arranged: John Stainer.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the LORD be with you.

And also with you.

Greet one another with words of peace and reconciliation.

A PRAYER FOR THE WORLD AND FOR THE CHURCH

4:30 John Fountain

6:00 Dan Edwards

SECOND READING FROM THE GOSPELS

John 1:14

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

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.

MESSAGE

"The Word Became Flesh"
Sandy Willson

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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

SILENT MEDITATION

HYMN OF JOY

The first Noel, the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel! Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel!

Then let us all with one accord,
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord;
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
And with His blood mankind hath bought;
Noel, Noel! Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel!

Words and Music: Traditional English carol.

BENEDICTION