

Evening Worship

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2019

From heaven above to earth I come
To bear good news to every home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing:

To you this night is born a child
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child, of lowly birth,
Shall be the joy of all the earth.

This is the Christ, our God and Lord,
Who in all need shall aid afford;
He will Himself your Savior be
From all your sins to set you free.

Now let us all with gladsome cheer
Go with the shepherds and draw near
To see the precious gift of God,
Who hath His own dear Son bestowed

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled,
Within my heart, that it may be
A quiet chamber kept for Thee.

—Martin Luther

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

4:30 Lee, Jennifer, Loftin, Lucy, and Mary Graham Sheppard

6:00 Logan, Alieta, Lola, Charlie, and Mills Casey

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."

CALL TO WORSHIP

4:30 Dan Edwards

6:00 Dave Driskill

READING FROM THE PROPHETS

4:30 Gracie Tortorici

6:00 Caroline Morris

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.

 *Congregation stand as able.*

☒ HYMN OF INVITATION

“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.

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.

READING FROM THE EPISTLES

4:30 Banks Robinson

6:00 Jack Smith T

Hebrews 2:14-18

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. ¹⁶For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

❖ HYMN OF CHRISTMAS

"Once in Royal David's 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, the scorned, and lowly
Lived on earth our Savior, holy.

For He is our childhood's pattern,
Day by day, like us He grew;
He was little, weak and helpless;
Tears and smiles, like us He knew;
And He feeleth for our sadness,
And He shareth in our gladness, too.

And our eyes at last shall see Him
Through His own redeeming love;
For that Child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above,
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848. Music: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1849.

☒ PROFESSION OF OUR FAITH: THE 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

"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 wondering 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 heaven;
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.

Words and Music: Lewis Henry Redner / Phillips Brooks, 1868 .

GIVING OF FIRST FRUITS

"All My Heart This Night Rejoices"

Emilie Alonso, soloist

All my heart this night rejoices
As I hear, far and near,
Sweetest angel voices.
"Christ is born," their choirs are singing
Till the air everywhere
Now with joy is ringing.

He becomes the Lamb that taketh
Sin away and for aye full atonement maketh.
For our life, His own He tenders;
And our race, by His grace
Meet for glory renders.

Hark! A voice from yonder manger,
Soft and sweet, doth entreat:
"Flee from woe and danger.
Brethren, from all ills that grieve you,
You are freed; all you need
I will surely give you.

All my heart this night rejoices
As I hear, far and near,
Angel choruses...
Love Him who with love is glowing;
Hail the star, near and far,
Light and joy bestowing.

Words: Paul Gerhardt/Catherine Winkworth. Music: WARUM SOLLT ICH,
arr. Rick Barnes.

PCA 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.

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.

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

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. 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.

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, 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

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.

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.

BENEDICTION