

SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

FOR DEC. 24, 2023

PRELUDE

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Salmon Family

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: On this holiest of nights,

All: we come, joining the shepherds who are stunned by wonder.

One: On this most silent night,

All: we come, our hopes and dreams joining those of Mary and Joseph.

One: On this nights of carols and candlelight,

All: we come, our glad songs joining with the choirs of angels over us.

One: On this glorious night, let us come to worship our God, born as a little baby.

*CAROL 133 O Come, All Ye Faithful vrs1 & 4

ADESTE FIDELES

PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

Holy God, we need to hear this Christmas story.

We need this story of ordinary people who bravely trusted you.

We need this story of love that changed the world.

You, loving God, are the light that has come

to rescue us from darkness. So we are here, gathered together

to warm ourselves by your light, because we need this story.

Tonight, you break forth into a world waiting in wonder.

Be with us this blessed evening and hear our joyful welcome!

Plant this story of love so deep in our bones

that we cannot help but share it.

Through Jesus Christ, born this night, we pray; Amen.

FIRST LESSON *God's covenant with Abraham* GENESIS 22:15-18

¹⁵The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, ¹⁸and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

SOLO: Hannah Vaught *I Wonder as I Wander*

COMPOSER JOHN JACOB NILES

SECOND LESSON *The light shines in the darkness* ISAIAH 9:2,6-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

CAROL 123 *It Came upon the Midnight Clear* vrs1

CAROL

*PASSING THE PEACE

We invite you to share the peace of Christ with others.

THIRD LESSON *A little child will lead them* ISAIAH 11:1-2,6-9

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

CAROL 121 O Little Town of Bethlehem vrs1

ST LOUIS

FOURTH LESSON *An angel appears to Mary* LUKE 1:26-35,38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

CAROL 119 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* vrs1

MENDELSSOHN

FIFTH LESSON *Mary Sings of God's Might* LUKE 1:46-55

⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; ⁵⁰indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

CAROL 100 *My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful Shout* vrs1

STAR OF THE CANTICLE OF THE TURNING COUNTY DOWN

**for portions marked with an asterisk, you're invited to rise in body or spirit*

SIXTH LESSON *Mary gives birth in Bethlehem*

LUKE 2:1-7

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

CAROL 115 *Away in a Manger* vrs1

MUELLER

SEVENTH LESSON *Angels announce Jesus' birth* LUKE 2:8-16

⁸Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger.

CAROL 147 *The First Nowell* vrs1

THE FIRST NOWELL

EIGHTH LESSON *Magi come from the East* MATTHEW 2:1-12

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

GIVING BACK TO GOD'S KINGDOM

from John 3:16

As the Magi brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to celebrate Christ's birth, let us now present our gifts before God.

OFFERING

CAROL 113 *Angels We Have Heard on High* vrs1&3 GLORIA

NINTH LESSON *The Word became flesh* JOHN 1:1-14

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

***SHARING THE LIGHT**

As you pass the light to your neighbor, hold your lit candle upright and wait for them to tip their unlit candle into your flame.

***CAROL 122** *Silent Night, Holy Night!* STILLE NACHT

***CHARGE & BLESSING** *from John 1:5*

POSTLUDE

Scripture verses taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

Visiting today? Welcome!

Please tell us a little about yourself!
You can scan this QR code with your smartphone to fill out our online form.
We would love to get to know you better!



Upcoming Events

Thur., Dec. 28 @ 5:45pm - Centering Prayer
Sun., Dec. 31 @ 4:00pm - Watch Night Service

Assisting In Worship Today

Liturgist.....Hannah & Zack Vaught
Ushers.....Linda Bonardel & Marty Whitson
Audio.....Terry Randall
Video.....Richard Wright
Director of Music.....Theresa Jean Kibby
Piano & Organ.....Debby McDonald

Poinsettias

Donated by:

- Anonymous
- Linda Bonardel
- David & Jo Bosh

- Don & Sherry Brown

- Jon & Paula Burlew
- Linda Cook
- Michael & Rebecca Davis

- Bill & Cindy Fountain

- Paul & Sue Guffey

- Nina & George Joplin

- Charles & Jan Leveridge

- Terry & Marci Randall

- Jo & Jimmy Salmon

- Kirby & Erin Stephens

- Carol Wade
- Annie Watkins
- Mark Watkins
- Richard & Laura Wright

In Memory or In Honor of:

- In Honor of Jack & Nina Wilhelm
- In Memory of Diane Bonardel Petrassi
- In Memory of Don & Dorothy Rhinehart
- In Memory of Cloyd & Mildred Rhinehart
- In Honor of our grandsons (first Christmas!)
Henry Alexander Brown &
James Alexander Williams
- In Honor of our granddaughters
Julianna Wise Brown & Vivian Jane Brown
- In Memory of Rev. Claude & Hazel Burlew
- In Memory of Edward Cook
- In Memory of Pat Davis
- In Memory of Jim Davis
- In Memory of Tyler Evans
- In Memory of Gene & Elise Garner
- In Honor of our children & grandchildren
- In Memory of our Parents
- In Memory of Prewitt & Katherine Hoffman
- In Memory of Carl & Lucille Guffey
- In Memory of Esther Guffey
- In Memory of Alice & George Joplin III
- In Memory of Vera & Paul Yuschak
- In Honor of Adam, Brent, & Elizabeth Joplin
- In Memory of Beecher & Doris Leveridge
- In Memory of Leroy & Evelyn Rowe
- In Honor of our children
- In Memory of our parents
- In Memory of Grace & Bailey M Salmon
- In Memory of Helen & Leman Bumgardner
- In Memory of Henry Salmon
- In Memory of Michael & Tana Young
- In Memory of Amon & Rosemary Stephens
- In Honor of My Family
- In Memory of my husband, Bill Watkins
- In Memory of my father, Dr. W.T. Watkins
- In Honor of Nora Smith

First Presbyterian Church

December 24th, 2023

Candlelight Christmas Eve



"Ponder" by Hannah Garrity, A Sanctified Art LLC. sanctifiedart.org

People of God, Welcome Home!

May Christ's peace and presence fill your heart as you worship this day, and may you go forth with the light and love of God shining within you.

We welcome you to worship, and ask that any electronic devices be placed on silent so that all may hear what God has to say.

Our sanctuary is equipped with a T-coil system for people with hearing difficulty.

Merry Christmas!

CAROLS

***CAROL 133** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* ADESTE FIDELES
**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!**
**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
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!**

CAROL 123 *It Came upon the Midnight Clear* CAROL
**It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth,
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven's all-gracious King":
the world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.**

CAROL 121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* ST LOUIS
**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.**

CAROL 119 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* MENDELSSOHN
**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

CAROL 100 *My Soul Cries Out
With a Joyful Shout* STAR OF THE
COUNTY DOWN
**My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?**

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CAROL 115 *Away in a Manger* MUELLER
**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

CAROL 147 *The First Nowell* THE FIRST NOWELL
**The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.**

CAROL 113 *Angels We Have Heard on High* GLORIA
**Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o're the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
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!**

***CAROL 122** *Silent Night, Holy Night!* STILLE NACHT

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light
4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and
glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -
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