

The Nativity of the Lord

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2024

6:00 P.M.

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD: CHRISTMAS EVE

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Pat Corkran & Rayma Bramschreiber

Darkness is all around,

It makes us long for light.

Seeds planted in the dark bloom into flowers.

Humans formed in the dark are born.

From within the night we see what we have hoped for.

The presence of God.

A child, Emmanuel, God with us.

Let us expect the light in the coming of Christ.

As the candles are lit, all sing the following through three times:

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Great God, as you came at night when all was still, so enter our lives this night.

Brighten our paths with Christ's presence, that we may clearly see the way, the truth, and the life of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*HYMN 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

LITANY OF ADORATION & THANKSGIVING

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Glory to God in the highest! On us has light dawned.

For a child has been born for us, a Son has been given to us.

Glory to God in the highest! His name is Jesus, which means God with us.

He is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Glory to God in the highest! He will establish justice and righteousness.

To us is born in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

Glory to God in the highest! Our Christ has come!

And the Word became flesh and lived among us.

Glory to God in the highest, full of grace and truth.

The baptismal water is poured.

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

O Lord our God, we give you thanks for your Word made flesh among us, a child and Savior born to us, good news of great joy for all. By the power of your Holy Spirit, let us give glory to you and live as your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Since we have been reconciled to God by the birth of Christ, let us also be reconciled to one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

*SUNG RESPONSE

Sing through three times. See printed music on previous page.

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo. Gloria, gloria, Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Spirit of God show us the Word made flesh—good news of great joy for all—so that we may sing with the angels: through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

READING	Isaiah 9:2-7	Patti Price
HYMN 147	<i>The First Nowell</i>	THE FIRST NOWELL
READING	Luke 2:1-7	Matthew Covington
ANTHEM	<i>Ave Maria</i>	Alfred Fedak
READING	Luke 2:8-20	Matthew Covington
ANTHEM	<i>Shepherds What Is This Lovely Fragrance</i>	arr. J. Flummerfelt
HYMN 145	<i>Hark the Herald Angels Sing</i>	MENDELSSOHN

HOMILY

Rev. Matthew Covington

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

John 1:1-5, 10-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING*

In gratitude for the gift of the Savior, let us present our tithes and offerings to God.

*SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn 134)

ANTIOCH

**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 sound in joy.**

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

...who forever sing to the glory of your name: (HYMN 562)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All who seek God are invited to the table, regardless of church affiliation or any other condition or identity. Ushers will guide you forward to partake by taking a piece of bread and dipping it in the cup. Prepackaged gluten-free elements are available in the baskets near the communion stations. Servers will come to those who prefer to remain in their seats.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Oh Holy Night

Adolph Aden

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God, at this table, in this meal, we have been met by Christ—the reflection of your glory, the imprint of your being. As we go from this place may our lives be a joyful song, proclaiming the good news of your righteousness and peace for all the world. Amen.

THE SENDING

*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Hymn 122

**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.**

You are invited to raise your candles for the final verse.

**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.**

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

**Rise in body or spirit*



LEADING OUR WORSHIP TONIGHT

Preacher: Rev. Matthew Covington

Liturgist: Patti Price

Communion Servers: Jerry Price & Glenda Price

Lighting of the Christ Candle: Pat Corkran & Rayma Bramschreiber

**Tonight's offering will go toward offsetting our annual donation to St. Benedict's Shelter.*

The flower arrangements in the sanctuary today are given in memory of Dayton Heffelfinger by Creda Heffelfinger.

POINSETTIAS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

In Memory of
Betty Jean Galloway
BY MARK & FRANCES MALONY

In Memory of
Alice Schmutz Malony
BY MARK & FRANCES MALONY

In Memory of
Bill, Doris, and Brenda Baker
BY MARILYN, BELLA, AND LAURA

In Memory of
Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Davis
BY TOM & SUSAN FURLONG

In Memory of
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Furlong
BY TOM & SUSAN FURLONG

In Honor of our grandmother,
Mary Louise Kirtley & our
great aunt, Elizabeth Gasser
BY ASHLEY JOHNSON, ALLISON
BATES, & AMANDA KIRTLEY

In Honor of Robin Potter
BY PATRICIA SMEATHERS

In Memory of Dale Guyer
BY SUZANNE GUYER

In Memory of Mary Jane
Shelvelson & Harris
Shelvelson
and Ned Shevelson
BY MARY LOU TAYLOR

In Memory of Lorraine
Corkran
BY PAT CORKRAN

In Memory of
Kate & Hewlett Bell
BY GLENDA & JERRY PRICE

In Memory of
Maxine & Jerry Price
BY GLENDA & JERRY PRICE

In Honor of the
Worship Committee & Staff
BY DON PREUSS

In Memory of Karen D.
Sanders
BY KELLY, RYAN, & VAUGHN
SANDERS

In Honor of loved ones
BY SUSAN GODTHAAB

In Honor of loved ones
BY ANN & HOWARD MCCLURE

In Memory of
Lois Edine Traylor Townsend
and John Thomas Townsend
BY CRED A TOWNSEND
HEFFELFINGER

In Memory of
Of my parents, Bill & Lee Carl
and my brother, Sam Carl
BY MADELINE CARL HOWELL

In Honor of my family
BY LINDA MORRIS

In Memory of
Virginia "Ginny" Brewer
BY PATTI TAYLOR & ANN
BREWER BENNETT

In Memory of Mimi Davis
BY BRETT DAVIS

In Memory of Jane Stevenson
BY BRETT DAVIS

In Memory of loved ones
BY LINDA & GARY KABALEN

In Memory of Dale R &
Jeanette Wagner
BY THEIR FAMILY

Flowers may be taken following
tonight's Service.

