

CHRISTMAS EVE • 9 PM



DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve

Service of Lessons and Carols



A welcoming community of faith where Jesus Christ transforms lives

WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Christopher A. Henry
Senior Pastor

Rev. Gracie H. Payne
Associate Pastor for Young Adult Engagement

Rev. Sara B. Dorrien-Christians
Associate Pastor for Children and Family Ministries

Rev. Michael M. Samson
Associate Pastor for Engagement

Rev. Karen L. Lang
Executive Pastor

MUSICIANS

Festival Brass & Percussion
Julie Beckel, *Horn*
John Rommel, *Trumpet*
Daniel Lewis, *Trumpet*
Ryan Miller, *Trombone*
Jared Rodin, *Trombone*
Steve Hanna, *Timpani*
Murray Mast, *Percussion*

Sanctuary Choir

Dr. Michelle Louer
Director of Music and Fine Arts

Dr. John Allegar
*Organist & Assistant Director
of Music and Fine Arts*

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Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols

As you came in the stillness of night, God, enter our lives this night. Fill us with the light of Christ, that we may clearly recognize the way to go, the truth to speak, and the life to live. As we peer into the face of the child of Bethlehem, may we discover anew a world in need of your love and redeeming grace. Amen.

Prelude

Variations on "Comfort, Comfort, You My People"
Organ

Georg Böhm
(1661-1733)

Bogoróditse Djévo
Sanctuary Choir

Arvo Pärt
(b. 1935)

*Bogoróditse Dĕvo, ráduyŝĭa,
Blagodátnaya Mařĭye, Ghospód s Tobóyu.
Blagosloŭĕnna Tĭ v zhenáĥ,
i blagosloŭĕn Plod chřéva Tvoyegó,
yáko Spása rođilá yeŝĭ dush náshĭĥ.*

O Mother of God and Virgin, rejoice!
O Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the Fruit of thy womb,
for thou hast borne the Saviour of our souls.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Festival Brass

VENI EMMANUEL
arr. Barry Stoner

A Christmas Blessing
Sanctuary Choir, Organ

Philip Stopford
(b. 1977)

May the joy of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
the worship of the wisemen
and the peace of the Christ child
be yours this Christmas.

And the blessing of God the Father
and the Son and the Holy Spirit
be with you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Text: Church of Ireland Book of Common Prayer;
adapted by the composer

May Christ, who by his incarnation
gathered into one all things earthly,
all things heavenly, fill you with joy,
fill you with joy and peace.

Away in a Manger
Festival Brass

CAROL
arr. Richard Price

In Dulci Jubilo (from *Musae Sioniae*, II)
Festival Brass, Organ

Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)
arr. Robert King (b. 1960)

* **Call to Worship**

Rev. Gracie H. Payne

One: Light looked down and saw darkness.

All: "I will go there," said Light.

One: Peace looked down and saw war.

All: "I will go there," said Peace.

One: Love looked down and saw hatred.

All: "I will go there," said Love.

One: So the Lord of Light, the Prince of Peace,
the King of Love came down and crept in beside us.

* **Hymn**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELIS
arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

**1. 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!**

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

2. Choir

God of God, Light of Light,
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created: *Refrain*

**3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! *Refrain***

**4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! *Refrain***

Welcome and Christmas Invocation

Rev. Christopher A. Henry

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Rev. Sara B. Dorrien-Christians & Rev. Michael M. Samson

One: We light candles this holy night.

All: Candles of joy despite all the sadness.

One: Candles of hope where despair keeps watch.

All: Candles of courage where fear is ever present.

One: Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days.

All: Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens.

One: Candles of love to inspire our living.

All: O Lord, may these candles burn all the year long. Amen.

Service of Lessons and Carols

First Lesson

Christ's Birth as Envisioned by Isaiah
Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Rev. Karen L. Lang

Carol

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
Sanctuary Choir

German Carol
arr. Michael Praetorius

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright,
Amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
She bore to us a Saviour, when half spent was the night.

Text: Es ist ein' Ros' entsprungen from Speier Gesangbuch, 1599

Second Lesson

A Vision of the Peace Christ Will Bring
Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

Rev. Michael M. Samson

Carol

The Dream Isaiah Saw
Sanctuary Choir, Festival Brass

Glenn L. Rudolph
(b. 1951)

Lions and oxen will sleep in the hay,
Leopards will join with the lambs as they play,
Wolves will be pastured with cows in the glade,
Blood will not darken the earth that God made.

Nature reordered to match God's intent,
Nations obeying the call to repent,
All of creation completely restored,
Filled with the knowledge and love of the Lord.

Little child whose bed is straw,
Take new lodgings in my heart.
Bring the dream Isaiah saw:
Life redeemed from fang and claw.

Little child whose bed is straw,
Take new lodgings in my heart.
Bring the dream Isaiah saw:
Knowledge, wisdom, worship, awe.

Peace will pervade more than forest and field:
God will transfigure the violence concealed
Deep in the heart and in systems of gain,
Ripe for the judgment the Lord will ordain.

Text: Thomas H. Troeger (1945-2022)

Little child whose bed is straw,
Take new lodgings in my heart.
Bring the dream Isaiah saw:
Justice purifying law.

Third Lesson

Gabriel's Announcement to Mary
Luke 1:26-35, 38

Rev. Sara B. Dorrien-Christians

Carol

Mary's Magnificat
Sanctuary Choir; Caitlin Stewart, soprano

Andrew Carter
(b. 1939)

Softly a light is stealing, sweetly a maiden sings,
Ever wakeful, ever wistful, watching faithfully, thankfully, tenderly her King of kings.

My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
Mary her song to Jesus softly, serenely sings:

'I will love you, I will serve you, may my lullaby glorify, magnify my King of kings.'
Lullaby, lullaby.

Call for Offering & Prayer of Gratitude and Dedication

Rev. Karen L. Lang

Offertory

His Light In Us Sanctuary Choir, Organ

Kim André Arnesen
(b. 1980)

God's distant call
flares in the night,
so long expected, so longed for;
and all my life,
Christ called my name,
and now at last, I'll answer Him.

Refrain:

Renewed, his hope,
his light in us,
incarnate, fragile,
our Lord appears.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Eternal,
so perfect,
his cry of changeless love.

This root, this stem, this flowering Love,
this mustard seed, it grows to the greatest tree,
the birds of souls have nested there.
The light of the night
Now blazes at dawn!

You've led me here,
O little child,
your being singing with God's life.
The kingdom sings,
it choirs with earth,
all creation lives Christ's peace.
Refrain

Text: Euan Tait (b. 1968)

Alive, awake, His call is here:
it is the crying of the Child;
I know Christ's call,
its hidden flame,
it makes my spirit flare with hope!

Refrain

Fourth Lesson

Jesus is Born in Bethlehem Luke 2:1-7

Rev. Michael M. Samson

* Hymn #56

The First Nowell

English Carol
arr. Dan Forrest (b. 1978)



1. All The first Now - ell the an - gels did say Was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in
2. Choir They look - ed up and saw a star Shin - ing in the east be -
3. All Then let us all with one ac - cord Sing prais - es to our



fields as they lay; In fields where they lay, keep - ing their
yond them far; And to the earth it gave great
heav'n - ly Lord. That hath made heaven and earth of



sheep, On a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
light, And so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
nought, And with His blood our life hath bought.



Refrain
No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well, Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Fifth Lesson

The Angels Announce Christ's Birth
Luke 2:8-20

Rev. Sara B. Dorrien-Christians

Hymn #38

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL
arr. Lloyd Larson (b. 1954)

Sixth Lesson

The Word Becomes Flesh
John 1:1-5, 14

Rev. Gracie H. Payne

The Christmas Eve Meditation

"The Reach of Love"

Rev. Christopher A. Henry

*** Hymn**

Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT
arr. Canadian Brass

*As the light of Christ is passed through the church, please hold the lighted candle upright
and then tip the unlighted candle to receive the flame.*

**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.**

**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**

*** Hymn of Response #40**

Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH
arr. Robert Hobby (b. 1962)

**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 world! The Savior reigns:
Let us our 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, wonders of His love.**

*** Postlude**

Variation on "Love Came Down at Christmas," no. 9

David N. Johnson
(1922-1987)

At the end of the service, please return your candles and holders to the large containers at the doors.

**On this holiest of nights, the staff of Second Presbyterian Church
wishes you a joyful Christmas season**



and a year full of the light and love of our Savior.

