

CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 24, 2023
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

prelude

As the music plays, please quietly prepare your heart and mind for worship, lifting your thoughts up from the cares of this world.

lighting of the christ candle

The Christ Candle is the fifth Advent Candle, and its color is white, representing purity and light. Christ is the sinless, spotless, pure Savior; and he is the light who has come into a dark world. Those whose Savior is Jesus Christ are washed of their sins and made whiter than snow.

musical meditation

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” — French carol, translated by Gerard Moultrie

opening prayer

WHIT ANDERSON

Leader: Beloved in Christ, at this Christmastide let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the babe lying in a manger. Therefore let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious redemption brought us by this Holy Child.

—Taken from *The Promise of His Glory*

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; *

* *Chorus:*

O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

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

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
"Glory to God all glory in the highest!" *

Words & Music: John Francis Wade, ADESTE FIDELES. Public Domain.

first lesson

RHODA HUNTER

Watersprings in the desert

The Reading | Genesis 3:8-19; Isaiah 35:1-2

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear Desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring from on high, appear;
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:
"Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (vv. 1&3), Mark Hunt (v. 2); Music: HYFRYDOL, R. H. Pritchard. Public Domain.

second lesson

ERIC AND NICOLE MARDIAN

The Heavenly Priest and Mediator

The Reading | Hebrews 1:1-3, 7:26-8:1

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 the Virgin, full of 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!

This is he whom heav'n taught singers sang of old with one accord,
Whom the Scriptures of the prophets promised in their faithful word;
Now he shines, the long-expected; let creation praise its Lord,
Evermore and evermore!

Words: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius; Music: DIVINE MYSTERIUM, Plainsong. Public Domain.

third lesson

THE OLIVEIRA FAMILY

The Shepherd of Peace from the town of David

The Reading | Micah 5:2-4

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.

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: Phillips Brooks; Music: Lewis Henry Redner, Public Domain.

fourth lesson

GREG SHOUP

A light to all nations

The Reading | Isaiah 56:1-3, 6-8

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Words: Latin hymn, trans. by John Mason Neale; Music: VENI EMMANUEL, Thomas Helmore. Public Domain.

fifth lesson

THE SCHELL FAMILY

Prince of Peace

The Reading | Isaiah 9:2; 6-7

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

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 the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by; born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

Words: Charles Wesley; Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn. Public Domain.

sixth lesson

THE MCDOWELL FAMILY

Gloria in excelsis Deo

The Reading | Luke 2:8-20

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echo back their joyous strains. *

* *Chorus:* Glo-ria in excelsis Deo. Glo-ria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song? *

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *

Words: Traditional French carol; Music: GLORIA, French melody. Public Domain.

seventh lesson

SUZANNE SCHELL

God with us

The Reading | Matthew 1:18-25; 2 Corinthians 8:9

THOU WHO WAST RICH BEYOND ALL SPLENDOR

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor, all for love's sake becamest poor;
Thrones for a manger didst surrender, sapphire paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor, all for love's sake becamest poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love's sake becamest man;
Stooping so low, but sinners raising heavenward by thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love's sake becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling, make us what thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship thee.

Words: Frank Houghton, © 2007 Thankyou Music. CCLI #3022711, #20579701, Song #6224404.
Music: FRAGRANCE, French carol. Public Domain.

The eternal Word

The Reading | John 1:1-4, 14

song

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.

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.

Words: Isaac Watts; Music: ANTIOCH, George Frideric Handel, adapted by Lowell Mason. Public Domain.

message

WHIT ANDERSON

“The Wonders of His Love”**December 24, 2023**

John 8:12 ESV | 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.”

Please rise and sing the final hymn as the candlelight is passed.

**** song**

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, 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 your birth! Jesus, Lord, at your 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: Joseph Mohr; Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, Public Domain.

ADVENT POINSETTIAS

Barbara Becker

In memory of my father, Richard Post.

Adrienne Herron

In memory of Alice Day, my sister in Christ and sweet friend sorely missed.

Rhoda Hunter

In memory of my husband of 50+ years, Pastor Phil Hunter, MD. of Covenant Community Church of Scottsdale, Arizona, and All Saints Presbyterian Church of Boise, Idaho.

Virginia Moore

In memory of my mother, Violet McCall, and daughter, Stacey Ruhser.

Russ & Debi Newcombe

In memory of our parents: Robert & Nelda Wise, Roland & Elizabeth Newcombe.

Greg Shoup

Pamela Courier Shoup: Knew Jesus, Loved Jesus, Now lives with Jesus. She will never be forgotten by her husband Greg and their family. Beloved "Nonna" to her grandchildren Hank, Danny, Paul, Thomas, Sylvie and Essie.

Debbe Tanner

In memory of her parents, Fred & Evelyn Diven.

If you sponsored a poinsettia, they will be available to take home after today's service.

WHERE TO FIND US

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Christ Presbyterian Church of Georgetown is part of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).