

**Celebration of Communion**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.  
**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**  
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**  
Leader: Therefore, with the angels and archangels,  
And with all the company of heaven,  
We laud and magnify your glorious Name;  
Evermore praising you and saying:  
**All: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts.**  
**Heaven is full of your glory.**  
**Earth is full of your peace.**  
**We praise you, O Lord most high.**

**Lighting of Candles**

**Hymn of Response:**

**Silent Night! Holy 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!

**Benediction:**

**2 Corinthians 13:14**

**Silent Meditation**

**Postlude**

**Recessional**



Welcome to

**LAWNDALE**  
*Presbyterian Church*

*A member of the Presbyterian Church in America*

Reverend Bill Bradford, Senior Pastor  
Reverend Jeremy Britt, Associate Pastor

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**  
*December 24, 2023*

*We exist to love God and love others.*

*We strive to do this by gathering for worship, growing together  
in grace, and going out to speak and show the Gospel.*

# CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION SERVICE

*Let earth and heaven combine, angels and men agree,  
To praise in songs divine the incarnate Deity,  
Our God contracted to a span, incomprehensibly made man.*

## **Prelude**

## **Welcome**

## **Interlude**

## **Opening Words: based on 103.1, 20; Luke 2.8-14; John 1.14**

Leader: Bless the LORD, O you His angels,  
You mighty ones who do His word,  
Obeying the voice of His word!

**People: Bless the LORD, O you His angels,  
Whom He sent to proclaim Good News  
For all the people.**

Leader: To declare the birth of our Savior,  
Who is Christ the LORD.

**People: Bless the LORD, O our souls,  
For the Coming of the Word made flesh.**

Leader: Glory to God in the highest,  
And on earth peace to all his people.

## **Invocation**

**Hymn of Praise: *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*  
Trinity Hymnal #200**

## **Advent Reading of Christ: *Luke 2.1-20***

1 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. 6 And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. 17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## **Hymn of Meditation:**

***O Little Town of Bethlehem*  
Trinity Hymnal #201**

## **Homily:**

***The Visited Planet***

## **Songs of Preparation:**

***Christmas Trilogy***

## ***O Holy Night***

*William Henson, piano*  
*Clay Cordell, violin*

## ***Holy, Holy, Holy***

*(Congregation sings)*

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, Holy, Holy! in a manger lowly;  
Christ the Son, now veiled in flesh, in our humanity.  
Kingdoms bow before Him; Heav'n and earth adore Him.  
God here in person; hail His majesty.

## ***In Christ Alone***

*(Congregation sings)*

In Christ alone! – who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones He came to save:  
Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied –  
For every sin on Him was laid;  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand:  
Till He returns or calls me home,  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.