

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



A member of the Presbyterian Church in America

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



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

*All praise to thee, eternal Lord, clothed in a garb of flesh and blood;
Choosing a manger for thy throne, while worlds on worlds are thine alone.*

Prelude

Welcome

Interlude

Opening Words: *based on Luke 2.14*

Leader: Glory and praise to our great God in the highest,

**People: Because he has made peace on earth
For men, women, boys and girls of his good pleasure.**

Leader: The high and the holy One came all the way down.

**People: The Father sent his dearly beloved Son to be born of a virgin.
The darling of heaven robed himself in our flesh to rescue us from sin.**

Leader: Let's give thanks to our gracious God!

People: Let's exalt his Name for his boundless love for us!

Invocation

Hymn of Praise: *Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus!* *Trinity Hymnal #196*

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, Dayspring 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."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories knew no end;
By his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

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 own sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Advent Reading:

John 1.1-18

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 were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") 16 For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

Hymn of Meditation:

Away in a Manger
Trinity Hymnal #204

Away in a manger, no crib for a 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.

The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus!
Look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle
Until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children
In your tender care,
And fit us for heaven,
To live with you there.

Homily:

Jeremiah 31.20
"God's Darling Son"

Special Music:

O Come, All You Unfaithful