

Christmas Eve Service

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude *Carols at the Manger* arr. Lani Smith

Introit *O Holy Night* CANTIQUE DE NOEL
Kay Carter, soloist

Spoken Call to Worship

Leader: That night in all of Heaven, there wasn't a sound,

People: as God and the angels hovered over the earth.

Leader: For there in the stable the Father's only Son

People: chose to give Himself for human birth.

Leader: And when the cry of the Baby pierced the universe

People: once and for all time, humankind was shown their worth.

Leader: And the heavens exploded with music everywhere.

People: And the angels spilled over Heaven's edge as music filled the air.

All: Let us remember and celebrate the birth of God's only begotten Son.

* Carol 144 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* ADESTE FIDELES
(verses 1 & 3)

* INVOCATION

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Advent Carol

Light the Christmas candles now, Sing of donkey, sheep, and cow.

Birthday candle for the King. Let the alleluias ring.

Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night.

Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.

Lighting the Christ Candle Traci and David Goodwin

Scripture John 1:4-5

The Giving of Our Gifts

Offering (Designated for the Presbyterian Home for Children)

Offertory *Song of the Shepherd* L. N. Porter

*Response

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Prayer for all those in need this night

A Christmas Confession of Faith

Leader: I believe in Jesus Christ, and in the beauty of the Gospel begun in Bethlehem.

People: I believe in the One whose Spirit glorified a little town; whose Spirit still brings music to persons all over the world in towns large and small.

Leader: I believe in the One for whom the crowded inn could find no room, and I confess that my heart still sometimes wants to exclude Christ from my life today.

People: I believe in the One whom the rulers of the world ignored and the proud could never understand; whose life was among common people; whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts,

Leader: I believe in the One who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible.

People: I believe in the One whose cradle was a mother's arms, whose modest home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth, who looked at persons and made them see what God's love saw in them, who by love brought sinners back to purity, and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.

Leader: I confess our ever-lasting need of God.

People: The need of forgiveness for our selfishness and greed, the need of new life for empty souls, the need of love for hearts grown cold.

Leader: I believe in God who gives us the best of Himself.

People: I believe in Jesus, the Son of the Living God, born in Bethlehem this night, for me and for the world.

Christmas Communion

Invitation

Communion Hymn 527 *Eat this Bread* BERTHIER

*Eat this bread; drink this cup;
come to Me and never be hungry.*

*Eat this bread; drink this cup;
trust in Me and you will not thirst.*

Words of Institution

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer

Sharing of the Sacraments (Intinction)

We are communing tonight by intinction. You are invited to come forward by the center aisle. Approach the communion servers to your left or right. Take the bread, dip it in the cup and share in the sacrament. Return to your seat by a side aisle. If you are unable to come to the front, please remain seated and you will be served.

Prayer after Communion

Bearing Light into the World

Lighting of Candles and Closing Carol 122

Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

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.***

Benediction

Postlude

Improvisation on "Silent Night"

Joe Carter



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Rev. Dr. Dawson Harmon, Pastor

Joe Carter, Music Director

Yvonne Pierce, Administrative Assistant



Service of Worship

Christmas Eve and Holy Communion

December 24, 2021

5:30 pm