

Service for Evening Worship

The Season of Advent

Christmas Eve Evening

December 24, 2024

6:00 p.m.

*You May Rise in Body or in Spirit

Liturgical Color: PURPLE

— *The People of God Gather* —

INTROIT MUSIC

‘Joyful Procession’

BELLS OF PEACE, Bell Choir

Seasonal Music

Hye-Yun Chung-Bennett, Harpist

‘Born This Day’

Rev. Grace Scarle, Soloist

PRELUDE

‘Jesu, Joy’

- comp., J S. Bach / Eileen Baas, organ

WORDS of WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Lonnie Darnell, pastor

*CALL to WORSHIP

Pastor: The people who once lived in darkness have seen a great light.

People: Praise be to God who has heard our cries!

Pastor: Our souls sing out God’s praise!

People: God has brought us a Light of hope and peace.

Pastor: Tonight, in this place, the Light of God’s love is given to us!

People: And we shall see this Light and let Him shine through our lives. AMEN.

*HYMN

‘O Come, All Ye Faithfull’

No. 41

INVOCATION

Pastor: Almighty God, as You appeared in splendor in Bethlehem’s manger, so be revealed to us this night.

Shine Your light and salvation into our lives. Bring us the same gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love that You brought to people of old. May the beautiful and jubilant announcement of Christmas, of Your saving grace and redeeming love born in Jesus Christ, be heard and received this night, to the glory, honor, and praise of Thy blessed and holy name. Amen.

~ LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH ~

The Christ Candle

(the LOGAN family, see insert)

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12)

— *The Word of God Proclaimed* —

FIRST LESSON

~ TO US A CHILD IS BORN ~

Isaiah 9:2-7

(Kate Logan-Lindgren, reader)

REFLECTION: Consider the deep darkness all around, the darkness in us and in the world. Thank God, this night, for the radiance of the Christ Child, who was born as the Light of the World.

ANTHEM

‘Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent’

- arr., Donna J. Butler

CHANCEL CHOIR; Hye-Yun Chung-Bennett, harpist

SECOND LESSON

~ THE ANNUNCIATION ~

Luke 1:26-38

(Jane Logan, reader)

REFLECTION: Mary said to the angel, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord.” Thank God, tonight, that Mary was so humble and obedient. Pray to be humble, that you may also be God’s servant.

† SPECIAL MUSIC

‘Oh Holy Night’

- comp., Adolphe Adams

Mike Baruffi, soloist

THIRD LESSON

~ THE BIRTH OF JESUS ~

Luke 2:1-7

(Al Simbritz, reader)

REFLECTION: There was no room for Joseph and Mary in the inn, so they slept in the cold filth of a barnyard, where the Son of God would be born. Vow to God, this night, that you will make room in your life for God, to do His holy will and to serve others who are in need around you.

HYMN

‘O Little Town of Bethlehem’

No. 44

FOURTH LESSON

~ THE ANGELS ~

Luke 2:8-14

(Linda Simbritz, reader)

REFLECTION: The shepherds were terrified of the angels. But they were soon calmed by the good news of a Savior. Ask God, this night, to save you, to relieve your fears, and to forgive your sins.

HYMN

‘Hark! The Herald Angels Sing’

No. 31

FIFTH LESSON

~ THE SHEPHERDS ~

Luke 2:15-20

(Kim Heaton, reader)

REFLECTION: The shepherds were terrified of the angels. But they were soon calmed by the good news of a Savior. Ask God, this night, to save you, to relieve your fears, and to forgive your sins.

† SPECIAL MUSIC

‘Joy to the World’

- BELLS OF PEACE

SIXTH LESSON

~ THE VISIT OF THE MAGI ~

Matthew 2:1-12

(David Heaton, reader)

REFLECTION: The star stopped over that place where Mary and Jesus slept. Seeing the star, Wise Men traveled to bring gifts to Jesus, the newborn King of kings and Lord of lords. Offer to God, this night, the gift of your heart—which is more precious to Him than any gifts of gold, frankincense, or myrrh.

† SPECIAL MUSIC

'Coventry Carol'

- arr., Mark Hayes
Ann Royer, *soloist*

A MESSAGE for ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

ANTHEM

'Empty Now'

- CHANCEL CHOIR
comp., Joseph Martin

OFFERING of GIFTS

Offertory:

'Silent Night / Greensleeves'

- arr., McDonald & Wood / Susann McDonald
Hye-Yun Chung-Bennett, *Harpist*

Doxology, *Thanksgiving

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

ANTIPHONAL READING

(see insert)

Isaiah 9:2-7

*HYMN

'Joy to the World'

No. 40

— *God's People Go Forth to Serve* —

*HYMN

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

(see insert)

~ As 'Silent Night' is sung, the pastor lights a candle from the **CHRIST CANDLE**, from which the ushers' candles will be lit. The ushers will proceed to each pew to light the candles of those sitting at the end, then all other candles are lit in succession. **Please note**, the lighted candle is the principle candle and always remains upright; only the UNLIT candle is tipped forward to be lit. After the Benediction, please be careful to **extinguish** your candles. As you leave the sanctuary, you may safely deposit the candles in the ushers' baskets in the narthex. ~

*BENEDICTION

May Almighty God, who calls you out of darkness into the light of His Son, grant that you have the joy of the angels, the exuberance of the shepherds, the reverence of the wise men, and the obedience of Joseph and Mary! To Him who is the Savior of the world, born to bring peace on earth and goodwill to humankind—to Jesus Christ be all glory all glory, honor and praise, now and forevermore! Amen.

*POSTLUDE

'Hallelujah Chorus'

- comp., George F. Handel

A Christmas Eve Worship Service of Scripture, Song, and Candlelight



Peace Presbyterian Church
Stuart, Florida

*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.*



Many Thanks to Tonight's Musicians:
Eileen Baas, *Organ* / Jean Winfree, *Piano*
Hye-Yun Chung-Bennett, *Harp*



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~ LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH ~

The Christ Candle

(the LOGAN family)

PASTOR — The glorious message of *ADVENT* is that Christ has come and will come again in all His power, glory, and splendor. We wait together for His return to make new heavens and a new earth. Tonight, the four surrounding candles in the Advent Wreath conveying *HOPE*, *PEACE*, *JOY*, and *LOVE* are extinguished, giving the sense of total darkness without Christ in our lives and in our world. (The Candles of HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE are extinguished.)

READER — *The Christmas Eve candle is the CHRIST CANDLE. It stands in the center of the ADVENT WREATH, signifying that ours and the world's longing for hope, peace, joy and love can only be fully satisfied in Jesus Christ. God's eternal plan of salvation, and all the promises of God meet in Christ, the Son of God who reigns forever! Jesus, born humbly in a manger and dying sacrificially on a cross, has triumphed over sin and death, and of His kingdom there shall be no end. (The CHRIST CANDLE is lit.)*

CHURCH — ***The angel of the Lord said to Joseph in a dream: "YOU SHALL NAME HIM JESUS, FOR HE WILL SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS." Glory to God in the highest! Peace on earth and goodwill to all!***

READER — Tonight the CHRIST CANDLE shines amid all darkness all gloom, reminding us that God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.

UNISON — ***Almighty God, thank You for Your love born in Jesus Christ. Open our hearts and minds to the wonder of this night, and help us to hear the good news of the gospel in the words and songs of this night. May Your glory be revealed and Your name exalted! Amen.***

SONG — ***"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!"***

CHRISTMAS

30 Born in the Night, Mary's Child

(MARY'S CHILD) 7.6.7.6

Geoffrey Ainger, 1964
Harm. Richard D. Wetzel, 1972

Geoffrey Ainger, 1964; alt.

Sen 6
Sen 5
0.7

G $\overset{\text{3}}{\text{—}}$ Em Am Cm6 G Em Am D7

1. Born in the night, Ma-ry's Child, A long way from Your home;
 2. Clear shin-ing light, Ma-ry's Child, Your face lights up our way;
 3. Truth of our life, Ma-ry's Child, You tell us God is good;
 4. Hope of the world, Ma-ry's Child, You're com-ing soon to reign;

G $\overset{\text{3}}{\text{—}}$ G+ C Em7 Am $\overset{\text{3}}{\text{—}}$ Am7 D7 G

Com - ing in need, Ma-ry's Child, Born in a bor-rowed room.
 Light of the world, Ma-ry's Child, Dawn on our dark-ened day.
 Yes, it is true, Ma-ry's Child, Shown on your cross of wood.
 King of the earth, Ma-ry's Child, Walk in our streets a - gain.

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31 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN 7.7.7.7 D with refrain

Felix Mendelssohn, 1840
Arr. William Hayman Cummings, 1855

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King.
 2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
 *3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!

CHRISTMAS

Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of the vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all He brings, Risen with heal - ing in His wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; Hail the in-car-nate De - i - ty,
 Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,

With the an - gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
 Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us sec - ond birth.

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

*Descant and alternate harmonization for stanza 3, 32

Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH CM with repeat

Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742

Arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re -
 2. Joy to the world! the Sav - ior reigns: Let us our
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in -
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the

ceive her King; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare Him room,
 songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 fest the ground; He comes to make His bless - ings flow
 na - tions prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous - ness,

And heaven and na - ture sing, And heaven and na - ture
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
 And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His
 And heaven and na - ture sing,

And

sing, And heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

O Come, All Ye Faithful

41

ADESTE FIDELES 6.6.10.5.6 with refrain

John Francis Wade (c. 1740-1743)
Trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841

John Francis Wade (c. 1740-1743)
Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing,
 *3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion!

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem!
 Je - sus, to Thee be all glo - ry given;
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!

Come, and be - hold Him, Born the King of an - gels!
 Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God, all Glo - ry in the high - est!

Refrain
 O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a -

dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ, the Lord!

*Alternate harmonization and descant for stanza 3, 42

O Little Town of Bethlehem

44

ST. LOUIS 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6

Phillips Brooks, 1868

Lewis Henry Redner, 1868

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
 2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry; And gath - ered all a - bove,
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, The won - drous gift is given!
 4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by.
 While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - dering love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heaven.
 Cast out our sin and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 No ear may hear His com - ing, But in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
 And prais - es sing to God the King, And peace to all on earth.
 Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Em - man - u - el!