

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

2006

Christmas Eve

11:00 p.m.

*All who are able may stand.

Bold type spoken by the congregation

“And the Word became flesh and lived among us
. . . full of grace and truth”

Prayer and Meditation

(read John 1:1-14)

Prelude

“*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*”
Youth Bells

Karen Buckwalter, arr.

Introit

Lighting the *Christ Candle*

Prayer of Adoration

O God of peace, to You we ascribe all honor and majesty, beauty and strength. You bring forth a child whom we call blessed, upon whose shoulders rests the destiny of nations. You give us the gift of life everlasting, a wonderful counselor who shall guide all Your people. With shepherds and angels, we lift our voices rejoicing: All glory to You in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom You dwell. Amen.

*Carol 41

“*O Come, All Ye Faithful*”

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

(from *Titus 2 & 3, Luke 2:10*)

Be not afraid, for behold, I bring you Good News of great joy for all the people.

God’s grace has appeared for the salvation of all.

For to us is born a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord.

God’s grace has appeared for the salvation of all.

When the goodness and loving kindness of God
our Savior appeared, He saved us.

God’s grace has appeared for the salvation of all.

This Spirit He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.

God’s grace has appeared for the salvation of all.

So that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs
according to the hope of eternal life.

God’s grace has appeared for the salvation of all.

*Gloria Patri

p. 579 in the Hymnal

*The Peace and Greeting

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you!**

(Please exchange this ancient greeting of the church with worshippers seated near you.

Please stand to greet one another in the name of the Lord.)

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson: *Isaiah 62:6-12*

p. 847 in the pew Bible

Carol 20

“*Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*”

Epistle Lesson: *Hebrews 1:1-4*

p. 264 in the pew Bible

Anthem

“*Mid-Winter*”

p. 71 in the Pew Bible

Communion Meditation

“This Particular Christmas”

Carol 49

“*Once in Royal David’s City*”

**Nicene Creed*

(Ecumenical Text, p. 15 in the Hymnal)

Prayers of Intercession and Dedication

Service of Offering

Offertory

“*Silent Night, Holy Night*”

arr. Dale Wood

*Hymn 43

“*O Little Town of Bethlehem*”

Words of Invitation

Call To Prayer

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise. . .

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

...we declare our praise:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

. . . let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

. . . Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The Lord's Prayer

p. 16 in the Hymnal

Words of Institution

Communion

(Please come forward to partake of the elements by intinction.

You may pause briefly for personal meditation before returning to your seat.)

Prayer After Communion

*Carol 23

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Sharing the Light of Christ

Carol 60

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

Charge and Benediction

*Sending Carol 29

"Go, Tell it on the Mountain"

*Postlude

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

arr. Anna Laura Page

WELCOME TO OUR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF WORSHIP

The Session, staff, and members of our church pray God's blessing be upon you and yours tonight and in the year to come. *The Presbyterian Church* has served Christ in this community since 1808. We are here to serve you as well. If you have no church home, we invite you to begin the new year with us in worship, study and fellowship. May your Christmas be filled with the joy of faith in Jesus Christ.

The flowers at the front of the Sanctuary are given by Joanne & Harry Farley to honor their grandchildren, *Christopher & Nikolas Farley; David King, III; Peyton King; and Krista Farley.*

The wreaths on the Sanctuary windows are given by Betty Ellett and Bryan Lewis *to the glory of God and in loving memory of Betty's mother and Bryan's grandmother, Doris Sheppard Ellett Bookman.*

We thank Karen & David Johnson for lighting the *Christ Candle* tonight.

Greeters: Steve & Kim Braun, Larry Casey

Ushers: Bridget & Bruce Harvey, Meg & Dave Bohmke, Ellie Crane, Leif Johnston

Communion Elders: Heather Howe, John Howe