

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

2006

Christmas Eve

7:30 p.m.

*All who are able may stand

***Bold type spoken by the congregation.**

*"A Child has been born for us, a son given to us;
and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*

Prelude

"What is this Lovely Fragrance?"

arr. Anna Laura Page

Welcome

Call To Worship

Lighting the *Christ Candle*

Prayer of the Day

Good and gracious God, on this holy night you gave us your Son, the Lord of the universe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, the Savior of all, lying in a manger. Tonight, draw us into the mystery of your love. Join our voices with the heavenly host that we may sing your glory on high. Give us a place among the shepherds that we may find the one for whom we have waited, Jesus Christ, the Messiah and Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

*Carol 31

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

*Prayer of Confession

God of the commonplace, we confess that we have been impressed by power and authority. We do not expect to meet you in the poor of the land, in cold barns, or on lonely duty watches. We are slow to hear the angels or to embrace the "good news of great joy." We hesitate to leave our chosen tasks to share in your larger purposes. We settle for idols of material security even as you thrust us into the battles of life, where we have nothing on which to rely other than our faith in you. In your mercy, forgive us. . . (time for silent confession). . .

*Assurance of Pardon

*Gloria Patri

p. 579 in the Hymnal

*Peace and Greeting

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you!**
(Please exchange this ancient greeting with worshippers seated near you.
Please stand to greet one another in the name of Christ.)

The Prayer for Illumination

The Prophecy *Isaiah 9:2-7*

p. 780 in the pew Bible

Carol 48

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

The Psalter *Psalms 96*

p. 677 in the pew Bible

The Birth in Bethlehem *Luke 2:1-7*

p. 71 in the pew Bible

Carol 24

"Away in a Manger"

The Announcement to the Shepherds *Luke 2:8-20*

p. 71 in the pew Bible

Anthem

"How Far Is It to Bethlehem?"

Mack Wilberg

Meditation

"The Politics of Peace"

Christmas Prayer and Prayer of Dedication

Service of Offering
Offertory

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

arr. Dale Wood

*Carol 36

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Words of Invitation

The 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 . . .

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

. . . we proclaim your greatness and sing your 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.
. . . we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The Lord's Prayer

p. 16 in the Hymnal

The Communion

(You are invited to come forward to partake of the elements. Please tear off a piece of bread and dip it in the cup. You may pause briefly for personal meditation before returning to your seat. Let the ushers know if you need special assistance.)

Anthem

“The First Nowell”

Mack Wilberg, arr.

The Prayer After Communion

God of Wonders, we praise and adore You, for speaking Your Word to our silence, for rousing us from our sleep, for entering our lives in Christ. We marvel again at the story of Jesus and Mary and Joseph. Drawn to Jesus by Your Holy Spirit, we see Your gracious love and the promise of our salvation. That You should nourish us with holy food in Your presence and in such a company of faith, stirs in us more gratitude than we can say. Thank You, Gracious God, now and always, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, One God, now and always. Amen.

Sharing the Light of Christ

Carol

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

The Sacred Dancers

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! 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.

Charge and Benediction

*Carol 40

“Joy to the World!”

*Postlude

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

arr. Steven Scott

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 Doreen & Gary Vaughn for lighting the *Christ Candle* tonight and to our reader: Karoline Le Febre

Greeters: Jim & Judy Schulken, Vicky & Marty Wilder and family

Ushers: Jan Morse & Ray Snow, Courtney & Bill Nix, Pam Eisensmith, Jim Ford

Communion Elders: Erma Baker, Tom Edwards

Chair Lift: Wayne Hibbeler