

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

2005

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 *Luke 2:1-20*)

Prelude

“*In Dulci Jubilo*”

German Carol

Lighting the *Christ Candle*

(*Psalms 97*)

Rejoice in the Lord you righteous, and give thanks to God’s holy name.

**The heavens proclaim your righteousness, O God,
and all the people behold your glory.**

For you, O Lord, are most high over all the earth and
are exalted above all gods.

**Rejoice in the Lord you righteous,
and give thanks to God’s holy name.**

Prayer of Adoration

*Carol 22

“*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*”

*Prayer of Confession

O God, Who reached into our world through the birth of Jesus, forgive us for settling our sights too low in this season. We see only a time for family and friends, a bit of cheer and finding just the right gift. We allow the world to define this time of year for us instead of proclaiming to the world the transforming power of the birth of the Savior. Open our eyes to the wonder of the incarnation: light into darkness, good news to poor shepherds, and the power of Your grace for all creation. In Your mercy, forgive us our timidity, our complicity, our idolatry. . . (time for silent confession). . .

*Assurance of Pardon

*The 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

Let us begin with Your Word, O God, sounding glad tidings of peace, goodness, and salvation for all people. Christ is come. You reign in grace and in truth. Help us to publish that news abroad and at home. Give us truthful words to spread the Good News of the redemption You bring, and joyful singing to unite the ends of the earth in gladness. Speak to us yet again, by the power of Your Holy Spirit, that we may rejoice and exalt in Your grace. Glory be to God on high! Amen.

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 62:6-12

p. 847 in the pew Bible

Anthem

“*Song of the Birth*”
Youth Choir

Allen Pote

Epistle Lesson: Titus 3:1-7

p. 262 in the pew Bible

*Carol 40

“*Joy to the World!*”

Gospel Lesson: John 1:1-5,9-14

p. 111 in the Pew Bible

Communion Meditation

“Expectations Undone”

**Nicene Creed*

(Ecumenical Text, p. 15 in the Hymnal)

Prayers of Intercession and Dedication

The Offering “*What is this Lovely Fragrance?*” traditional French Carol

*Hymn 5 “*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*”

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

...who forever sing to the glory of your name:
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...
...Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again...

The Lord's Prayer

p. 16 in the Hymnal

The Words of Institution

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 “*Mid-Winter*” Bob Chilcott

Prayer After Communion

*Carol 46 “*On This Day Earth Shall Ring*”

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*” Felix Mendelssohn

WELCOME TO OUR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF WORSHIP

The Session, staff, and members of our church pray God's blessing be upon you this night 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.*

Greeters: Joe & Betsy Mathias; Bill, Jacqui & Jessica Nix
Ushers: Bruce & Bridget Harvey, Heather Howe, John Howe,
Caroline Hudgins, Pam Eisensmith
Chair Lift: Jeff Eisensmith