

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

2005

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
Welcome

"I Saw Three Ships"

traditional English Carol

Call To Worship

Lighting the *Christ Candle*

Prayer of the Day

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. In the name of Jesus the Messiah we worship and pray. Amen.

*Carol 41

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Prayer of Confession
Assurance of Pardon

(from Titus 3:4-7)

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

**So that we might be justified by God's grace
and become heirs in hope of eternal life.**

God saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness,
but in virtue of God's own mercy.

**So that we might be justified by God's grace
and become heirs in hope of eternal life.**

God saved us by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit,
which God poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**So that we might be justified by God's grace
and become heirs in hope of eternal life.**

Friends believe the Good News of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

*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 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

"There is No Rose"

Graham J. Ellis

Meditation

"Baby Emmanuel"

Christmas Prayer and Prayer of Dedication

Offering

Offertory

“What is this Lovely Fragrance?”

traditional French Carol

*Carol 510

“Jesus Thou Joy of Loving Hearts”

Words of Invitation

The Call to Prayer

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up 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

. . . to the glory of your gracious 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.
. . . true to Christ’s commandments.
We remember Christ’s death, we proclaim Christ’s resurrection.
We await Christ’s coming 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

Gracious God, You have given Yourself, holding back nothing. We praise You for the sacrifice of Christ and for His strength in obedience. In thanks for the meal we have shared, grant that we may truly know our burdens borne and our sins forgiven. Send us out full of gratitude and ready to spend ourselves in Your service. Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

Sharing the Light of Christ

Carol

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

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! 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.

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.

Charge and Benediction

*Carol 23

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

*Postlude

“Adeste Fideles”

John F. Wade

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 Clarke & Bev Pressly for lighting the *Christ Candle* tonight.

Greeters: Jim & Judy Schulken, Porter & Linda Blakemore

Ushers: Jim & Marsha Lockett, Mike & Jean Ramsburg, Neil Corry, Wayne Hibbeler

Chair Lift: Dave Bohmke