

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church



December 24, 2024

The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord

THE GATHERING

December 24, 2024

4:30 P.M.

MUSIC FOR THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP

Light looked down and saw darkness.

"I will go there," said Light.

Peace looked down and saw war.

"I will go there," said Peace.

Love looked down and saw hatred.

"I will go there," said Love.

So, the Lord of Light, the Prince of peace, the King of Love, came down and crept in beside us.

O come, let us adore him!

*PROCESSIONAL CAROL 134

"Joy to the World!"

ANTIOCH

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Reader: Hope, peace, joy, and love. Four candles, four promises continually offered to us by God, and all of them manifest in this one we light tonight: the Christ candle. In Christ we find the hope of transformation, the peace that follows justice, the joy of self-fulfillment in community, and the love that encompasses us in all our diversity, empowering us to make our own unique contribution to this world. In Christ we find light and life, and the courage to be like him, answering his call and following in his footsteps.

All candles are lit.

ALL PRAY:

**We rejoice in God's steadfast presence in our lives,
and in God's unique presence in the life of Jesus of Nazareth—
born of Mary, growing through childhood into adulthood,
in all his life manifesting the peace, love, and justice of God;
his voice undimmed by the centuries,
his call and his promise as clear to us as it was to his disciples long ago.
Come to us, Lord Jesus, be born in us this night.
May the light of your life be kindled in us,
and lead us to the shining truth,
of God with us, God for us, God in us.
Amen.**

CAROL 140

"Once in Royal David's City"

IRBY

THE WORD

TIME FOR OUR YOUNGEST DISCIPLES

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 9:2-7
The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM "In the Bleak Mid-Winter"

Harold Darke

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2:1-20
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON "Home Among Us"

THE RESPONSE

*CAROL 133 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"
(Verses 1, 2, & 4)

ADESTE FIDELES

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

(The offering this evening goes to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Your gifts will help others throughout the year. Please designate your gift for the fund by noting it on the memo line of your check.)

OFFERTORY "Dulci Jubilo"

Bach

*DOXOLOGY "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

REGENT SQUARE

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!**

*PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

CAROL 121 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

ST. LOUIS

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(Responsive, congregation please read **bold** print.)

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

Blessed are you, O Lord, our God...Therefore, we praise you, joining the song of the universal church and the heavenly choir:

(singing...)

Sing choirs of angels, Sing in exultation!

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all Glory in the highest!

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior...we offer ourselves to you with gratitude as we share this joyful feast.

(saying...)

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

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us...we bless you, God of glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not I not temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

(Please offer your hands for the portion of bread that will be given to you and then take a cup to partake. You may deposit the cup in the side baskets on the way back to your seat or at your seat in the holder provided. If you would like for a server to come to you, please raise your hand.)

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (Unison)

Holy and astounding God, at this table, in this meal, we have been met by Christ – the reflection of your glory, the imprint of your being. As we go from this service, may our lives be a joyful song, proclaiming the good news of your righteousness and peace for all the world. Amen.

THE SENDING

*SPREADING THE LIGHT (See Insert)

"Silent Night"

STILLE NACHT

(During the singing of the carol, when passing the flame, always keep your lit candle upright while the next person tilts the unlit candle into yours. Candles may be extinguished following the Benediction and returned to the Gathering Space.)

HYMN 60

"Silent Night"

Stille Nacht

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.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Savior of Nations Come"

Bach

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Anne Hébert, Pastor
Ky Webb, Liturgist
Judy McQuilkin, Jill Claybour, Greeters
Marty Havlin, Sally Keeney Ushers
Connie Boruta, Kim Allen, Advent Readers
Chris and Dave Jahr, Communion Preparers
Tim Quist, Organist
Michael Beery, Choir Director
Lisa Sheppley, Trumpet

