



We light the Christ Candle
to celebrate the birth of our Savior,
Jesus,
the Light
coming
into the world.

First Presbyterian Church

149 Broad Street

Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111

Church: (716) 692-1319

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service

Come, Worship the Lord, Our God

CCLI License # 2839486

December 24, 2022

8:30pm

PRELUDE *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Do not be afraid; for see—
I am bringing you good news of great joy.
**To us is born this day in the city of David
a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.**
This will be a sign for you:
you will find a child wrapped in cloth
and lying in a manger.
**Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace!**
Let us go now to Bethlehem.

GATHERING PRAYER

Living God, on this holy night we gather—
to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory;
to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work;
to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise;
to sit with Mary, cradling your love.

May the good news of this night inspire us
to tell the world of our great joy:
for to us is born a Savior,
the Messiah, the Lord.

Glory and praise to you forever! **Amen.**

HYMN: *Joy to the World #134*

ANTIOCH

Lighting the Christ Candle: Nancy Rolando

The prophet Isaiah share a word with a waiting world. "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined...For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders."

All: "He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
"His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore."

All: "The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this."

As we stand faithfully on the brink of God's time, we light the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

All: Tonight we enter God's time, faithfully. We light the Christ Candle to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus, the Light coming into the world.

CALL TO CONFESSiON

In Jesus Christ our Lord the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.
With confidence and joy, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSiON

Great and glorious God,
through Jesus Christ our Savior you have shown us
that the blessed age of grace has appeared
and the hoped-for time of salvation has come.
Yet we cling to the glories of the present age—
worldly passions and impious pursuits,
self-indulgent, crooked, and ungodly ways.
Redeem us from evil and cleanse us from sin,
through Christ, who gave himself for us,
so that we might be your people, holy and whole. Amen.

Time for Silent Confession

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Hear this good news of great joy: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

PASSING THE PEACE

BELL CHOIR: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Loving God, by the gift of your Spirit,
teach us, like Mary, to treasure your words
and ponder them in our hearts;
through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

⁶ For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

HYMN: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (vs 1-2) #129*

ES IST EIN' ROS'

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷ How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'

⁸ Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹ Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰ The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Solo: *Mary Did You Know?* - Kelsey Burns

SCRIPTURE READING MAGNIFICAT: Luke 1:46b-55

⁴⁶ 'My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

BELL CHOIR: *What Child is This?*

GREENSLEEVES

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2:1-7

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

HYMN: *Hark the Herald Angels Sing #119*

MENDELSSOHN

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2:8-14

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
¹⁴'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

HYMN: *The First Nowell vs 1, 2, 6 #147*

SCRIPTURE READING: Titus 2:11-14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Meditation:

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

HYMN: *Love Has Come #110*

BRING A TORCH

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING *Still, Still, Still*

DOXOLOGY *In The Bleak Midwinter vs 4 #144*

CRANHAM

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We give you thanks, Holy One,
for the world of wonder you have made—
forest and field, sea and sky,
and for the gift of grace that you have given—
a little child, lying in a manger.

Receive these gifts of tenderness and love,
of gratitude and praise, and use them for your glory;
in the name of Jesus Christ, the child of Bethlehem, we pray. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

On this silent night, God is with you!

GOD IS ALSO WITH YOU!

On this holy night, God's grace comes to us.

**OUR HEARTS REJOICE IN HIS BECOMING ONE OF US,
SO WE MIGHT BECOME ONE WITH GOD.**

On this Night of nights, the shadows of the world
melt away before God's Light.

**WE JOIN THE CHOIRS OF ANGELS SINGING TO THE UNIVERSE
THE GOOD NEWS OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS.**

... with your people in every time and place, caroling the good news which is ours:

GLORIA! GLORIA! IN EXCELSIS DEO!

CREATION JOINS IN THE ANGELIC CHORUS OF JOY.

HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST!

BLESSED IS THE ONE BORN FOR US THIS NIGHT.

HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST!

... we proclaim that mystery we call faith:

BORN IN THE SHADOWS OF NIGHT, CHRIST IS OUR LIGHT.

DYING ON A ROUGH CROSS, CHRIST IS OUR LIFE.

RISING FROM A COLD TOMB, CHRIST IS OUR HOPE.

RETURNING TO US ONCE MORE, CHRIST IS OUR PROMISE.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

SCRIPTURE READING: John 1:1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

HYMN: *Silent Night (see next page)*

STILLE NACHT

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

We would like to thank Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee for sharing her gifts with us tonight.

Special thanks to our musicians under the direction of Kurt Ebsary:

Linda Barry, Kelsey Burns, Betsy Crocker, James Hankinson, Alvin Marohn, Marilee Mathias, Jessica Schurr, Judy Winters, Bonnie Zimmer;

and to our readers: Kaitlyn Burns, Conrad Chaffee, James Hankinson, and Sue Schurr.

There is no worship tomorrow, Sunday, Dec 25th. Join us at 10:30am next Sunday, Jan 1st, for an informal New Year's worship service in the Parlor with coffee, snacks, and communion.

Silent Night, Holy Night

1 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.

2 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!

3 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.

4 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.



Memorial Christmas Poinsettias

December 24, 2022



In Memory of:

Jean & Carl Adamson

Given by:

The Tyrrell's & Eisman Families

Charles & Beloved Son, Sid Tyrrell

Marlene Tyrrell & Family

Jean C. Seager

John (Jack) E. Seager

Kenneth Charsley

The Family

The Schad Family

The Family

Burns Family Loved Ones

Burns Family

Geerkin Family Loved Ones

Burns Family

Michael D. Neubauer

Bonnie Sibley

Marla Maertin

Bonnie Sibley

Irving Sibley

Bonnie Sibley

Wilma Bender

Mary Bender

In Honor of:

Friends & Family

Given by:

Gail Borycki