



***A thriving faith community
engaged in compassionate service.***



December 24, 2025
10:00 p.m. Worship Service
Live Streaming on Facebook plus On Demand on YouTube
4369 South Buffalo St., Orchard Park, NY 14127-2611
Office: (716) 662-9348
Email: info@oppchurch.org Website: www.oppchurch.org
www.facebook.com/orchardparkpresbyterianchurch

Order of Service

*Please rise in body or spirit

Prelude

Angels' Carol

John Rutter

Greetings

Candle Lighting – Christ Candle (Claudia and Mike Rodems)

Reader 1 - In a fearful world, where do you see the presence of God?

Reader 2 - I see God's fingerprints all around us. I see God in the beauty of the stars. I see God in the love of this community. I see God in the dreams we hold for a better world.

Reader 1 - You are right. Even in a fearful world, God is here. God is all around us.

Reader 2 - On this holy night, we light the Christ Candle as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, God's love is all around us.

Light Candles

All - Thanks be to God for a love like that! Amen.

Introit

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

*Call to Worship

Leader: On this holy night, we come,

People: Dazzled and awe-struck, ready to sing alongside the angels.

Leader: On this holy night, we come,

People: Eager and hopeful, ready to journey alongside the shepherds.

Leader: On this holy night, we come,

People: Quietly and tenderly, ready to worship alongside Mary.

Leader: On this holy night, we come, singing, trusting, believing, proclaiming: good news is louder than fear.

ALL: Let us worship our good news, with-us God.

*Opening Hymn #113

Angels We Have Heard on High

*Invitation to Confession

Leader: Family of faith, on the night of Jesus' birth, a crowd of angels appeared before a group of rag-tag shepherds to tell them the good news.

The angels *could* have gone to Herod's house.

The angels *could* have sung in the city square.

The angels *could* have found the most important, faithful, and powerful to share the good news, but instead they told a group of low-status shepherds. The angels' message was clear: this is good news of great joy for all people. The good news of this night is for you too—no matter who you are, what you've done or left undone. The angels are singing for you. So, join me in the Prayer of Confession. Join me in drawing closer to the God who has already drawn close to us. Let us pray.

*Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God of angel choruses, you hang the stars in the sky, but we do not see them. You fill the night with an angelic song, but we do not hear it. You send shepherds to tell the good news, but we do not believe them. You bring love into the world, but we do not seek it. Quiet the fear in us that works to rationalize, minimize, and distract from the good news you put forth into the world. Tune our hearts back to your song. With hope we pray, Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

Leader: This is the good news: love freely given, grace radically extended, welcome always offered, belonging never restricted. Friends, we are seen, loved, welcomed, forgiven, called, and sent to serve.

People: Thanks be to God, Amen!

*Passing the Peace of Christ

Leader: Having been reconciled to God in Jesus Christ, let us now share the signs of that reconciliation with one another. The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you. (Please share the Peace of Christ with those around you saying "Peace be with you".)

Anthem

I Wonder As I Wander

Niles, arr. Peggy Bettcher

Wilson Memorial Handbell Choir

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-20; N.T. pg. 58

Sermon

The Good News

Rev. Dr. Wylie Hughes

The Offering
Offertory

Invitation to the Manger
Sanctuary Choir

Joseph Martin

***Doxology #606** *Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ,
(Melody) all people here below; praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune
God, whom we adore. Amen.*

***Invitation to the Lord's Table**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***Great Thanksgiving**

Leader: Therefore, we give thanks to you, joining in the chorus of praise that transcends time – connecting us to generations past, present, and future:

People: 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. (Hymn #552)

Words of Institution

Partaking of the Bread and Cup

Communion Music

Andante et Scherzo

Henri Rabaud

Nocturno

Franz Behr

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Leader: Listen now as we pray in the way Jesus taught us:

People: 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 into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Prayer Response

Amen

Astorga

Sanctuary Choir

***Candle Lighting Liturgy**

Leader: Let there be light!

People: May we share the love of God with a world longing for light and hope, purpose, and love. May our actions shine in a world under the shadow of darkness.

Leader: Let us share light.

ALL: We join the chorus of those who have echoed through the years, "O come to us, abide in us, our Lord, Emmanuel."

***Lighting of the Candles (Hymn 122 Silent Night, Holy Night)**

During the singing of "Silent Night", the lighting of the candles will begin from the Christ Candle, symbolizing the spread of Christ's light into the world. The ushers will light the candles of those on the end of the aisle. Please light the candle of the worshipper next to you as the light is passed throughout the Sanctuary. Tip only the unlighted candle.

***Closing Hymn 134**

Joy to the World

***Benediction**

Leader: In a fearful world, may you look for God's spirit. May you reach for each other's hands. May you choose courage whenever you can. And in all things, may you remember that good news is louder than fear.

All: In the name of the one who calls, the one who sends, and the one who journeys with us; we go in peace and we will not be afraid. Amen.

Choral Benediction

A Blessing of Light

Joseph Martin

Sanctuary Choir

Postlude

Toccata Improvisation on "Antioch"

Handel arr. Hamilton

Liturgy is adapted from prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Many thanks to Amy Kilpatrick, Alex Hamilton, Amelia Wroblewski, April and Heather Dunlap, and Angel Rhodes for sharing their gifts of music and song with us in tonight's service!

Special thanks to all who shared their talents with us tonight in the concert:

Alex Hamilton, Dorcas Eugene, Amelia Wroblewski, Angel Rhodes, Alan and Becca Henderson, April and Heather Dunlap, Pastor Hughes, Mel, Ruth, and Kate Metzger, Jim Jaremka, and Barry and Heather Dietsch.

LESSONS & CAROLS

One Service ~ December 28, 10:30am

Family Faith & Food *Epiphany Celebration*

Sunday, January 4, 9:30am
Fellowship Hall

Families with kids of all ages are invited to a delicious breakfast as we begin the second half of the program year.



Use the QR Code
to RSVP!



Epiphany Services
8:30am & 10:30am