

*Peace on
Earth*



CHRISTMAS EVE
LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE
7:30PM



The Setauket Presbyterian Church

December 24, 2025

❖ *please rise in body or in spirit; unison prayers are in bold.*

GATHERING MUSIC

"Pifa" from Messiah

G. F. Händel

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

INTROIT

Once in Royal David's City

Henry J. Gauntlett

Arr. Stephen DeCesare

WELCOME

Rev. Candace Whitman

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Leader: On this silent night, God is with us.

People: **We gather to be in God's presence.**

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

People: **The Christ child is born in Bethlehem to live among us.**

Leader: On this night of nights, shadows melt before the Light of the World.

People: **We join the choirs of angels who sing out the good news.**

Leader: Let us find the manger, to see God's gift for all people!

❖ **HYMN no. 133** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (verses 1, 2, 3)

CALL TO WORSHIP (Isaiah 9:2; John 8:12)

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; for those living in the shadows of death, a light has dawned! Our waiting is over! For Jesus is the light of the World; those who follow him will have the light of life.

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN no. 123 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* (verses 1, 3, 5)

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

"Isaiah foreshadows the peace that Christ will bring..."

MUSIC

O Holy Night

Adolphe-Charles Adam, Arr. Cesar Madeira

THE SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:26-35, 38

"In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph..."

HYMN no. 129

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (verses 1, 2)

THE THIRD LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

"In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered..."

MUSIC

Gesu Bambino

Pietro A. Yon, Arr. Stephen DeCesare

THE FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-14

"In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night..."

HYMN no. 119 *Hark the Herald Angels Sing (verses 1, 3)*

THE FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2:15-20

"Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart..."

CHORAL ANTHEM

Advent Echo Carol

Mary Kay Beall

REFLECTION

OFFERING

This year, our Christmas Eve offering will support the Grace Food Pantry of Grace Presbyterian Church, a sister church of SPC, located in Selden, NY. Donations help provide food security for Long Island residents.

❖ OFFERTORY

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring from Cantata 147

J.S. Bach

❖ DOXOLOGY no. 609

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God,
all creatures high and low: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF SELF AND SUBSTANCE

For gifts abundant and for grace abounding, we give you thanks, generous God.
Bless the gifts we bring tonight to bless our neighbors near and far. May these offerings
and our lives be your gift of grace to others. Amen.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHT

The Christ candle represents Jesus, the Light of the World. The candle lighting ceremony is symbolic of the spreading of the Gospel Light from one life to another. The lighted candle is never tilted, but always held upright when giving light to another. Please extinguish your candles after the last stanza of Silent Night.

❖ HYMN no. 122 *Silent 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!
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!
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!
Wonderous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our king:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born*

❖ CHRISTMAS PRAYER (unison)

Living God, on this holy night we stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory; we sing with angels, rejoicing in your work; we wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise; we sit with Mary, cradling your love. May the good news of this night inspire us to tell the world of our great joy: for unto us is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord. Glory and Praise to you forever! Amen.

❖HYMN no. 134

Joy to the World!

During this carol, congregants who wish to join the choir for the Hallelujah Chorus may proceed upstairs using the stairs on the right side of the narthex.

❖BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Hallelujah Chorus from Messiah

G. F. Händel

Hallelujah!

**For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. Hallelujah!
The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord,
and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever.
King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.**

Hallelujah!

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

Liturgical sources for tonight's service include the PCUSA Call to Worship and the writings of the Rev. Thom Shuman.



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