

the PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



Good, New by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

December 24, 2025, 7:30 pm

Christmas Eve

ORDER OF WORSHIP

◇We rise in body or spirit.

We say words in bold together.

GATHERING

Prelude

Unto Us a Boy Is Born

Gordon Young

Welcome and Gathering Prayer

Rev. Elizabeth Lovell Milford

**Incarnate God, on this holy night, we come –
dazzled and awe-struck, ready to sing alongside the angels,
eager and hopeful, ready to journey alongside the shepherds,
quietly and tenderly, ready to worship alongside Mary.**

**Singing, trusting, believing, proclaiming:
good news is louder than fear.**

O come, o come, Emmanuel. Be with us tonight and always. Amen.

Lighting the Christ Candle

The Bothel Family

In a world full of fear, where do you see the presence of God?

We see God's fingerprints all around us.

We see God in the beauty of the stars and love of this community.

We see God in the dreams we hold for a better world.

Even in a fearful world, God is here.

We gather in hope, peace, joy, and love.

On this holy night, we light the Christ candle as a reminder of this good news.

May this flicker of light help us remember:

God's love is all around us.

◇ Carol 121, verses 1 and 4 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting light;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray,

cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

◇ Prayer of Confession Natasha Taylor, Faith Formation Coordinator

God of angel choruses, you hang the stars in the sky, but we do not see them. You fill the night with 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

This good news is love freely given, grace radically extended,

welcome always offered, belonging never restricted. **Thanks be to God!**

◇ Joyful Response (Carol 113, refrain)

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

◇ Peace and Greeting

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Dr. Tom Lovell

Scripture Reading: *Isaiah 9:2-7*

p. 780 in the pew Bible

Carol 88, verses 5 and 6 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

***O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.***

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

***O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to
flight. (Refrain)***

Scripture Reading: *Psalms 96*

p. 677 in the pew Bible

Anthem

The Birthday of a King

W.H. Neidlinger

Scripture Reading: *Luke 2:1-12*

p. 71 in the pew Bible

Carol 119, verse 1 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

***Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"***

Scripture Reading: *Luke 2:15-20*

p. 71 in the pew Bible

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Homily

Louder

Rev. Elizabeth Lovell Milford

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

◇ Affirmation of Faith

We have seen the valley. We have seen a sky without stars.

We have seen the longest night, and *still* we believe.

We believe in a with-us God. We believe in the hope of tomorrow.

We believe that good news is louder than fear.

We believe this good news is for all people.
So even when our knees shake, even when our voice trembles,
even when fear is all around us, we will hold onto that good news.
We will reach for each other. We will look for God in our midst.
We will sing songs of joy. We will proclaim: *Unto us, love is born.*
We have seen the longest night, and we have seen unimaginable love.
So *still*, we believe. Amen.

◇ Carol 133, verses 1 & 3 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*
O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

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!

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's 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.**

Emmanuel, we live in a fearful world . . . Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Our hearts are filled with a holy hope . . .

may we always hold on to some of the portion of the wonder, the mystery,
and joy found here.

Our Father, who art in heaven. . . forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors . . .

Breaking of the Bread and Communion of the People

Tonight communion will be served in the pews. All are invited to celebrate this sacrament. You may consume the elements in a moment of personal prayer or hold them until all have been served so we may partake together. All the bread is gluten-free and the cups contain grape juice.

Prayer After Receiving

SENDING

Sharing the Light of Christ

John 1:1-5, 9

Please remember to tilt the un-lit candle toward your neighbor to receive the light.

◇ Carol 122

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! 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.***

◇ Charge and Benediction

◇ Carol 134, verse 1

Joy to the World

***Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature
sing.***

◇ Postlude

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

arr. Anna Laura Page



The flowers on the pulpit are given by Harry and Joanne Farley to the glory of God and to honor their grandchildren: Christopher Farley, Nikolas Farley, David King III, Peyton King, Krista Farley, and Beatrice Farley.

Serving in Worship Tonight:

Choirmasters: Mary Ann & Larry Casey

Organist: Amy Shirk

Greeters: Nancy Raines, Lynn & Preston Simms

Ushers: Sherman Brown, Laura & Jesse Chewning, Mike Gibson

Elevator Assistant: Steve Spratt

Communion Servers: Sherman Brown, Marjolijn Bijlefeld, Joan Gaston, Mike Gibson, Adam Nelen, Carol Nelen, Kathy Pecka, Steve Spratt, Amy Talmadge, Jerry Zekert

Candle Lighters: Sherman Brown, Mike Gibson, Kathy Pecka, Jerry Zekert

Sanctuary Guild: Joan Darby

Videographers: Ed Foresman, Trey Talmadge

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

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