

Faith Presbyterian Church

*Christians growing in Faith by caring, connecting,
& serving community*



Christmas **EVE**

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

CHIMES

PASTOR'S GREETING

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Brown Family

On this Christmas Eve we are gathered as God's people to celebrate again what Christ's coming means to the world. We join with Christians all over the world who are celebrating tonight.

Hear these words from Paul's letter to the Romans 5:5.

...and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Tonight, we relight the four Advent candles and recall what the good news means. (*hope, peace, love, joy*)

Jesus Christ is the greatest gift who makes all these other gifts possible. So, we light the Christ candle now, as we think about what Christ's coming means to each one of us.

Unison Prayer:

We thank you, God, for your gift of Jesus Christ. We thank you that Christ's coming makes hope, peace, love and joy possible for every person in every nation. Encourage us to do our part to bring goodwill and peace to our families, our churches, our neighborhoods, and the world. Now let your Spirit put us in touch with you, the living God, through the words and music we hear tonight. For we lift our prayers in the name of that baby in the manger, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ADVENT SONG

Light the Christmas candles, now: Sing of donkey, sheep, and cow; birthday candles for the King, let the alleluias ring.

Refrain:

Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night; candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.

Hymn #41

“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.

Refrain:

O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

True God of true God, Light of light eternal, our lowly nature he hath not abhorred: born of a woman, here in flesh appearing.
[Refrain]

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above: “Glory to God, all glory in the highest!” [Refrain]

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n; Word of the Father, begotten, not created.
[Refrain]

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Come, Holy One, who hastens us now with cumbersome shepherds unto Bethlehem. Come and abide in us that we may learn the things that make for peace. Give us

that listening ear which hears your compassion moving through all human loneliness. In the crisp night air, in the anxious dark, keep us open to neighbor and stranger, to angels and shepherds; and make us ready for Christ's victory over Herod's earth. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON

*Response #23

Gloria in excelsis Deo

Glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o; Glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o.

THE SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

God's Promise of Salvation:

Lesson Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Mary Skare

Carol #9

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high, who ordered all things mightily; to us the path of knowledge show and teach us in its ways to go. Refrain

O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times did give the law in cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain

O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem, unto your own and rescue them! From depths of hell your people save, and give them victory o'er the grave. Refrain

O come, O Key of David, come and open wide our heavenly home. Make safe for us the heavenward road and bar the way to death's abode. Refrain

O come, O Bright and Morning Star, and bring us comfort from afar! Dispel the shadows of the night and turn our darkness into light. Refrain

O come, O King of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind. Bid all our sad divisions cease and be yourself our King of Peace. Refrain

The Announcement to Mary:

Lesson Luke 1:26-33

Melissa Brown

Carol #25

“Away in a Manger”

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes. I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

The Promise Is Fulfilled:

Lesson Luke 2:1-7

Kelly Mayhew

Special Music

“*Mary Did You Know*”

THE CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER
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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Good News Is Revealed to the Shepherds:

Lesson Luke 2:8-14

Daniel Brown

Carol #56

“The First Nowell”

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far; and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. [Refrain]

And by the light of that same star three Wise Men came from country far; to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. [Refrain]

This star drew nigh to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest; and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay. [Refrain]

Then entered in those Wise Men three, full reverently upon the knee, and offered there, in his presence, their gold and myrrh and frankincense. [Refrain]

The Visitation of the Magi:

Lesson Matthew 2:1-3, 9-12

Jeanne Johnson

Special Music

“The King of Glory Comes”

Who is the King of glory, how shall we call him? He is Emmanuel, the promised of ages.

Refrain: The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices. Open the gates before him, lift up your voices.

In all of Galilee, in city or village, He goes among his people curing their illness. Refrain:

Sing then of David's Son, our Savior and brother; In all of Galilee was never another. Refrain:

He gave his life for us, the pledge of salvation, He took up on himself the sins of the nation Refrain:

He conquered sin and death; he truly has risen. And he will share with us his heavenly vision Refrain:

The Light of the World:

Lesson John 1:1-5, 9-10, 14

Pastor Julia

THE SERVICE OF LIGHTS

Please dim your house lights, light your candle and let it shine as we listen to Silent Night.

LITANY OF LIGHT

O Lord, you have given us Jesus, who is the light of the world.

Help us to bring the light of Christ to a weary world.

Where there is sadness, grief, despair, or hopelessness,

Help us to bring the light of Christ.

Where there is sickness, suffering, violence, or hatred,

Help us to bring the light of Christ.

Fill us with your love, your peace, and your goodness

That we may be Christ's light in the world.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

A special thank you to Jenny Davis for sharing her musical gifts with us tonight!