
A Service for Christmas Eve

Candlelight and Communion
December 24, 2022 7:00 p.m.



Gathering

Prelude

In the Bleak Midwinter
Doug Sensabaugh, trombone
Candlelight Carol
Davis Family
Christmas Carols

-Darke

- Rutter

Welcome

*Opening Sentences (responsively)

In the holy darkness of this night,
amid labor pains and newborn cries,
angel songs and tremors of fear,
tears of relief and looks of amazement,
our Savior takes his first breath.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel has come to us!

*Carol

O Come, All Ye Faithful

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*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!*

*True God from true God, Light from light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; very God, begotten, not created!
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!*

*Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

The Light Promised

Scripture Readings

Genesis 1:1-5
John 1:1-5

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

*O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

*O come, Desire of nations, bind All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease; Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

The Light Given

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-7

*Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem (vv. 1, 4)

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*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!*

Scripture

Luke 2:8-14

Anthem

Sussex Carol

- Hagenberg

*On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angel bring,
News of great joy and of great mirth. News of our merciful King's birth.*

*Then why should men on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad;
When from our sin He set us free, all for to gain our liberty.*

*When sin departs before His grace then life and health come in its place.
Angels and men with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King.*

*All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night,
"Glory to God in highest heaven, now and forever more," Amen.*

Scripture

Luke 2:15-20

Homily

Pastor Keith Phillips

*Carol

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

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*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!*

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!*

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!*

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

O Holy Night
Jessica Bateman, Flute

-Adam

God Shares the Supper with Us

Invitation to the Lord's Table

A child is born for us in Bethlehem, wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger;
and he will be our Shepherd, feeding his flock in the strength of the Lord.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (*responsively*)

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 our right to give our thanks and praise.

(The pastor continues the prayer, with congregational responses as follows:)
...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

(The congregation will sing the following to the tune of "Angels We Have Heard on High")

*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and God of might.
Heav'n and earth are full tonight, with your glory beaming bright.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

...all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

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 Breaking of the Bread and the Pouring of the Cup

*Communion of the People

(We welcome all who come in the name of Christ to feast at God's Table. Please move toward the center of the church, wearing masks and maintaining space between you and other worshippers, then move to the station serving your section. Servers will offer you a piece of bread—please cup your hands to receive it and move to the next server to take a cup from the tray. After you receive the elements, please return to your seat to eat the bread and drink the cup. You may leave your cups in the chair racks or dispose of them as you leave the sanctuary. For those who would be helped by a gluten free bread, please come to the center aisle and receive the element from the server in the middle.)

Prayer After Communion (Unison)

**Christ Jesus, born among us, as a mother feeds her child with her body,
so you feed us with yours, giving us the bread to eat and the cup to drink.
May these gifts of grace nourish us deeply,
that we may become your body in the world
and live as instruments of your great love. Amen.**

The Light Reflected

*Lighting of the Candles

*Hymn

Silent Night, Holy Night! (vv. 1-4)

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*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.*

*Benediction

*Carol

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

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*Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!*

*While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. (Refrain)*

*The shepherds feared and trembled When lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth. (Refrain)*

*Down in a lowly manger The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)*

Tomorrow is Christmas Day!

**We will be emailing a link to our remote worship service tomorrow morning.
*There will not be an in-person worship service on Christmas Day.***

Massanutten Presbyterian Church

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Ann Pettit and Keith Phillips, *Co-Pastors* ... Bob Jerome, *Director of Music* ... Carol Lown, *Organist* ...
Hannah Altman, *Children and Youth Director* ... Karen Leecy, *Office Manager* ...
Danielle Cunningham, *Digital Media Communications Coordinator* ...
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