

**Christmas Eve Family Worship Service  
December 24, 2023 – 4:30 p.m.  
Massanutten Presbyterian Church**



*The congregation, elders, and staff of Massanutten Presbyterian Church  
wish you and your family a joyous Christmas.*

*When this symbol (\*) precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.*

## **We Gather around the Light**

Prelude

*Christmas Carol Medley*

*The music this evening will include preludes on the following carols—Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella, Ding Dong Merrily on High, See Amid the Winter's Snow, In the Bleak Midwinter, Once in Royal David's City, What Is This Lovely Fragrance, and Once in Royal David's City.*

Welcome

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Brian, Ashley, Gage, Merritt, and Quest Gordon-Becker

How does a weary world hold onto hope, practice peace, spread joy, or know love?

How does a weary world combat cruelty?

How does a weary world shine a light into our bleakest night?

**We do all these things with God's help.**

**For tonight, a child is born in Bethlehem.**

**Tonight, Christ draws near.**

**Tonight, we light the Christ Candle.**

**Tonight, we are not alone.**

God is near. Love has drawn close.

Rejoice! For God loves this weary world. Amen.

\*Hymn

*Love Has Come*

110

*Love has come: a light in the darkness!  
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;  
hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.*

*Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.  
Love is God now asleep in the hay.  
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;  
what is the name her heart is saying?  
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.  
Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.*

*Love has come and never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us.  
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.  
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!*

## We Hear the Story of the Light and Sing

Prayer for Illumination

### Luke 2:1-5

*O Little Town of Bethlehem* (v. 1) 121  
*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.*

### Luke 2:6-7

*Away in a Manger* (v. 1) 115  
*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.*

### Luke 2: 8–14

*Hark the Herald Angels Sing* (v. 1) 119  
*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King.  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinner reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

### Luke 2:15-20

*The First Nowell* (v. 1) 147  
*The first Nowell 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.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.*

---

## We Help to Tell the Story of the Light

*A Christmas Participation Story* by Paul Osborne

	<u>When you hear ...</u>	<u>... then you:</u>
Group 1	"Shepherds"	say "Yo, sheep!"
Group 2	"Sheep"	say "Baa!"
Group 3	"Night"	sing "Silent night, holy night!"
Group 4	"Angel"	sing "Hallelujah! Hallelujah!"
All	"Good news"	say "Yes!" (with fist pump)
All	"Great joy"	Shout!
All	"Baby"	say "Awwww"

## We Respond to the Light

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

*O Holy Night*  
Jessica Bateman, Flute

-Adam

Christmas Eve Prayer

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.**

## We Carry the Light into the World

\*Lighting of the Candles

\*Hymn

*Silent Night*

122

*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.*

\*Blessing

\*Blessing Response

*Go Tell it on the Mountain* (refrain, v. 1, refrain)  
*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

136

*While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.*

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*