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## A Service for Christmas Eve

Candlelight and Communion

December 24, 2023 7:00 p.m.

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*He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.*

### The Light Promised

Scripture Readings

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

\*Hymn

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

133

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

*Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven 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 given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!  
(Refrain)*

### The Light Given

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-7

\*Hymn

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

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.*

*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 2:8-20

Homily

Pastor Ann Pettit

### Gathering

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.*

\*Opening Sentences (*responsively*)

There is room for you here.

If you're weary and worn, or hopeful and patient.

**If you're tired and lost, or wrapped up in hope.**

If you're new to this place, or have been here before.

**Come in, come in.**

**There is room for you here.**

The angels are singing,

**"Be not afraid."**

The angels are singing,

**"Good news and great joy!"**

So come in, come in!

**There is room for us here.**

\*Carol

*Joy to the World*

134

*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.*

*Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!*

*Let all their songs employ,*

*while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains*

*repeat the sounding joy,*

*repeat the sounding joy,*

*repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow,*

*nor thorns infest the ground;*

*he comes to make his blessings flow*

*far as the curse is found,*

*far as the curse is found,*

*far as, far as the curse is found.*

\*Carol

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

132

*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

Anthem

*Song of the Wanderer Forrest*

### God Shares the Supper with Us

Invitation to the Lord's Table

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...*)

...it has made it possible for us to join our voices with the angel chorus:

(*The congregation will sing the following to the tune of "Angels from the Realms of Glory"*)

*All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore our voices raising to the eternal Three in One:  
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!*

...we will continue to pray as your son taught us saying,

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)

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.*

\*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)*

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Gifts to tonight's offering will be divided between the Christmas Joy Offering, a ministry of the Presbyterian Church (USA), and Blessings in a Bag, a food-for-the weekend program that supports children at South River Elementary School in Grottoes, VA.

*Merry Christmas to you and those you love.*

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#### Massanutten Presbyterian Church

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Ann Pettit and Keith Phillips, *Co-Pastors* ... Bob Jerome, *Director of Music* ... Carol Lown, *Organist* ...  
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