

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

*Hymn *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* 136

*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)*

*We will receive the Christmas Joy Offering this evening.
Gifts to this program support church leaders of the past, present, and future
for education and at times of special need.*

Massanutten Presbyterian Church

50 Indian Trail Road • Penn Laird, VA 22846 • (540) 434-6194 • massanuttenchurch.org

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* ...

Greg Trobaugh, *Treasurer* ... Katie Rodgers, *Nursery Caregiver*...

Cindy Grimes and Dick Leecy, *Custodial Services*

A Service of Worship on Christmas Eve

Candlelight and Communion

December 24, 2024 7:00 p.m.



Gathering

Prelude *O Holy Night* -Adam
Jessica Bateman, Flute

*Opening Sentences (*responsively*)

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

Glory to God in the highest!

The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Glory to God in the highest!

For a child has been born to us, a Son has been given to us.

Glory to God in the highest!

He is a Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Glory to God in the highest!

To us is born in the city of David, a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

Glory to God in the highest!

And the Word became flesh and lived among us.

Glory to God in the highest!

*Hymn *Angels We Have Heard on High* 113

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness.

We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good.

We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less.

**Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace,
and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.**

*Assurance of Forgiveness (*responsively*)

God has poured out the Holy Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that,
having been justified by his grace, we might have the hope of eternal life.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God!**

*Response of Praise

Glory Be to the Father

581

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.*

The Light Promised

Prayer for Illumination

Anthem

Wexford Carol

-Price

Scripture

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

*Hymn

Of the Father's Love Begotten

108

*Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega; he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!*

*By his Word was all created; he commanded; it was done:
heaven and earth and depths of ocean, universe of three in one,
all that sees the moon's soft shining, all that breathes beneath the sun,
evermore and evermore!*

*O, that birth forever blessed when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,
and the babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore!*

The Light Given

Scripture

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
Homily

Luke 2:8-20
Pastor Keith Phillips

Introduction to the Offering

*Hymn

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, far as the curse is found.*

*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.*

God Shares the Supper with Us

Invitation to the Lord's Table (*responsively*)

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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy (*The pastor continues*) ...

... who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of majesty (*The pastor continues*) ...

... Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us (*The pastor continues*) ...

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.**

Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup

Communion of the People

*(Please move toward the center of the church, 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, partake as you feel led. 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 elements from the server in the middle.)*