

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP— CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 p.m. // December 24, 2023

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *In Dulci Jubilo*.....J.S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Salvation for Israel has come out of Zion! Christ the Lord restores the fortunes of his people. Let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad.

People: He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.

Leader: Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

People: My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all the day, for their number is past my knowledge.

All: Let us praise the Lord together this Christmas Eve.

***CAROL:** *O Come All Ye Faithful*.....HB No. 170

*PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

FIRST LESSON.....Galatians 4:4-7

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE.....Jon Oliphant

OFFERTORY CAROL: *Away in a Manger*.....HB No. 157

SECOND LESSON.....Luke 2:1-7

HOMILY.....*God’s Plan in God’s Time*

***CANDLELIGHT CAROL:** *Silent Night! Holy Night!*.....HB No. 154

*CANDLELIGHTING CEREMONY

***CLOSING CAROL:** *Joy to the World!*.....HB No. 161

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *Ding Dong, Merrily on High*.....English Carol

*Those that are able please stand.

A nursery is available in the Preschool building.

A warm welcome is extended to all that worship during this Christmas Eve service. May the love of Christ and the blessing of the Christmas season be with you today and through the coming year.

An offering for the Congregation’s General Fund will be received during the offertory carol.

The candlelight ceremony will begin during the singing of the carol *Silent Night! Holy Night!* With the use of the SafeFlame candles, the ushers will walk row by row and you are asked to turn on your candle as the ushers move by your row, symbolizing the birth of the Christ and the coming of the true light of the world.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, December 24: Christmas Eve

3:00 p.m.Just Joy & Family Christmas Eve Service

5:00 p.m.Christmas Eve Service

9:00 p.m.Christmas Eve Service

MONDAY, December 25

Church Office Closed

TUESDAY, December 26

Church Office Closed

FRIDAY, December 29

Church Office Closed

SUNDAY, December 31

10:00 a.m.Worship Service

From the English Standard Version of the Holy Bible

Galatians 4:4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria.³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town.⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth.⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

*The Poinsettias are given to the glory of God and in
memory of...*

- * **Walter, Jean & John Revell; Jack, Anne & Johnny Alexander; Robert, Barbara, Adah & Noah Lesslie** from Robert & Jeanie Alexander
- * **Our parents: Jimmy & Shirley Norris** and **Bill & Henri Altman** from Bill & Nanette Altman
- * **John Bailey** from Jane Bailey
- * **Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bridges** and **Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Miller** from Dick & Linda Bridges
- * **Her loving parents, Gibbs & Nancy Prevost** from Lynn Chonko
- * **Adam Cox & Will Cox** from Jack & Emily Cox
- * **Mr. & Mrs. Ray Lewis Gardner** and **Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Boyce Faulkner** from Wayne & Susan Gardner
- * **John Ward Logan** from Linda Logan Entrekin
- * **Rev. Dr. Tony Grant** from Beth Grant
- * **Jessie H. Harper** and **Margaret R. Harper** from Mr. & Mrs. Don Harper
- * **Maudell & John Gulledege, Carlos Williams, Ruth & Archie Helms,** and **Bernice & Leonard Williams** from David & Gail Helms
- * **Virginia Ann Kellett** and **Ed Kellett** from Howard Kellett
- * **Norma White, Morris Glidewell,** and **James & Grace Kiser** from Tim & Connie Kiser
- * **Robert & Barbara Lesslie** from Jeff & Katie Lesslie
- * **Adah Elizabeth** and **Noah Ryan** from Daddo & Momma
- * **Rhonda Logan** from Johnny, Katherine, Jeffery, Caroline, Bryson, Ward, Anne & Jones, and Merritt
- * **Charles Madsen** and **Frank Shugart** from the Madsen family
- * **Jason Marshall, Lawton Horton, Myrl Echols** from Tim & Sylvia Marshall
- * **Bill Culp** from Nancy Moore
- * **Harriet & Jennings Neely, Sr.** and **Jennings Neely, Jr.** from Linda Neely
- * **Walter & Jeanie Revell, Russell Tanner,** and **John Revell** from Jeanie & Walter Revell
- * **Harold & William Rhodes** and **Eva & Harold Rhodes** from Sylvia Rhodes
- * **Brandon Hardison** and **Betty & Doug Roper** from Dianne & Tom Roper
- * **Jimmy Simpson** from Beth Simpson
- * **All of our loved ones we are missing during this holiday season** from Ragan & Judy Simpson
- * **Forrest & Betty Musselman** from Jan & David Stephenson
- * **Betty King** and **Lucille Templeton** from their granddaughters Emma, Raye & Meg
- * **Jan Maners Small** from Frank & Cindy Wilkerson

*The Poinsettias are given to the glory of God
and in honor of...*

- * **Our children: Cristi & Alex Corcoran,** and **Chelsea Altman** from Bill & Nanette Altman
- * **Heather, Seth & Ben Gregory** love from Yaya
- * **Orlando Jones** and **Jon & Aimee Oliphant** from Susan & Buddy Cassels
- * **Merritt Edward Pope** from Linda Logan Entrekin
- * **Margaret Lucas** and **John & Dottie Gettys** from John, Christi, Jack, Grier, and Evan Gettys
- * **The Choir & Musicians** and **Nursery Volunteers** from Debi Hallman
- * **Ann Louise & Roger Neely, West, Neely & Ward Kellett,** and **Mary Campbell & Vic Davis** from Howard Kellett
- * **Our granddaughter, Reid** from W.C. & Lois Kirkpatrick
- * **Anne Glidewell** from Tim & Connie Kiser
- * **Ann & Ken Miller** from Jeff & Katie Lesslie
- * **Oliver Jarrell** from Cole & Kay McKinney
- * **Dotty Madsen, Joyce Shugart, Patrick Robinson & Ryan Tinker** from the Madsen family
- * **Frances Horton** from Tim & Sylvia Marshall
- * **Ya-Ya & Poopah (Ann & Ken Miller)** from Cody & Hannah Miller
- * **Barry & Sarah Dagenhart** and **Jon & Aimee Oliphant** from Nancy Moore
- * **Dora Dean Tanner** from Walter & Jeanie Revell
- * **Howard Kellett** and **Jack & Ann Roddey** from Frank Robards
- * **Our grandchildren** from Carol & Theresa Smith
- * **Jody FitzGerald** from Jan & David Stephenson
- * **Pastor Jon and his family** from Wilma Taylor-Bucy
- * **Nancy & Tim Templeton** from their children Emma, Alex, Raye, and Meg