



St. Andrews-Covenant

Presbyterian Church | PC (USA)

Welcome to Worship! | December 24, 2022 Christmas Eve

It is good you are here! Please silence all electronic devices.

GATHERING

Prelude *Brass music*

Welcome.

***Hymn No. 133** *O Come All Ye Faithful*

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!

Advent Wreath Lighting/Call to Worship

3:30 Palmer and Alison Sineath
7:30 Rick, Romi, and Ricky Wheeler

One: For your word that endures

All: we give you thanks.

One: For your promises to which we hold

All: we give you thanks.

One: For your love that surrounds us for all of our lives

All: we give you thanks.

One: For those gathered here, and for those we miss; for family, friends and stranger

All: we give you thanks.

One: For those who minister your grace

All: we give you thanks.

One: For the hope that lives each Advent, for the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, for the joy of this season and for your love that has no end

All: we give you thanks. Amen.

**Please stand as you are able.*

Sung Response No. 91 *Come, Come Emmanuel*
Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.
Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

***Gathering Prayer**

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, you are always with us and always coming.
We confess that we do not know how to truly prepare our lives for that reality.
We have forgotten how to hope. We have ignored your promises. We have been
distracted by the busyness of us. Forgive us, Lord. Grant us the simple wonder of the
shepherds, the courage of the magi, and the quiet faith of Mary and Joseph, that we
may journey with them toward Bethlehem and find the good news of a child born for
us. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

***Sung Response No. 82** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (v. 1)*
Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

Leader: The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

WORD

Lesson

The Birth of Jesus
Luke 2:1-7

3:30 Nancy Trout
7:30 Melinda Stewart

Anthem 3:30 *O Holy Night*

Elijah Cole, Tenor Soloist

Adolphe Adam

Hymn 7:30 No. 113 *Angels We Have Heard on High (vs. 1 and 3)*

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!

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!

Lesson

The Shepherd's Visit
Luke 2:8-20

3:30 Lisa Bohbrink
7:30 Jen Phelps

Hymn No 147 *The First Nowell (vs. 1 and 2)*

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.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

Lesson

The Word Became Flesh
John 1:1-14

3:30 Catheryn Thomas
7:30 Kathy Denlinger

Hymn No 128 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging, angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of the gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you! Christ the babe was born for you!

Meditation *Giving Christmas Back to God*

Rev. Dr. Robert Bayley

*Hymn No. 121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (vs. 1 and 4)

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!

*Affirmation of Faith: Apostle's Creed (hymnal, p. 35)

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

THANKSGIVING

Offering and Passing of Friendship Pads

Offertory 3:30 *Candlelight Carol*

John Rutter

Soloists: Abigale Hawkins, soprano and Steve Hassmer, baritone

7:30 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

arr. Lloyd Larson

Abigale and Lily Hawkins, vocal duet

*Doxology No. 145 *What Child Is This?* (v. 1)

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

*Prayer of Dedication

COMMUNION

(All are invited to the Table of our Lord. The distribution of the elements will be shared by intinction, the dipping of bread into a common cup. The congregation will receive communion using the center aisle. Please return using the side aisles. Pre-packaged elements and gluten-free bread are available if preferred.)

Invitation to the Table No. 82 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (v. 2)

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

Prayer over the Table
Words of Institution
Sharing of Bread and Cup Together

Communion Music 3:30 *Sweet Little Jesus Boy*
Angela Burns, Mezzo Soprano
3:30 and 7:30 *Brass and Organ Music*

arr. Robert MacGimsey

Closing Prayer

SENDING

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

The Spreading of the Light of the World

***Hymn No. 122** *Silent Night, Holy Night*

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**

***Dismissal**

*We stand while the bell is rung three times, remembering that
God, Creator, Redeemer and Renewer of Life goes with us. Go in peace!*

Postlude *Brass and organ music*

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Worship Leaders

Interim Head Pastor, Rev. Dr. Robert Bayley
Liturgist: 3:30 John Frye, Commissioned Ruling Elder; 7:30 Rev. Dr. Samuel Murrell
Adult Choir Director, Angela Burns
Director of Music, Cindy Litzinger
Organist, Sara Bryant
Brass quartet: Casey Black, trumpet; Jake Yates, trumpet; James Lane, trombone; Jessica Leighton, tuba