

ORDER OF WORSHIP
December 24, 2022
Christmas Eve

7PM & 9PM



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Prelude

God's promises
prepare us to
worship

A Prelude of Carols

Cathy Benton

Mike & Robin Callan (7pm); David & Ceci Bartels (9pm)

Tonight is Christmas Eve, a celebration of the coming of Jesus, our King and Lord incarnate, God with us, and the hope of salvation for the whole world. Tonight we light the final candle, the Christ candle.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

This is the Word of God, who gives light to everyone. from John 1:1, 5, 9

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

All My Heart This Night Rejoices

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1656; tr. Catherine Winkworth
Tune: Johann G. Ebeling, 1666

Chancel Choir

All my heart this night rejoices
As I hear, far and near, sweetest angel voices:
'Christ is born!' their choirs are singing,
Till the air ev'rywhere now with joy is ringing.

Hark! A voice from yonder manger,
Soft and sweet, doth entreat, 'Flee from woe and danger!
Brethren, come! From all doth grieve you,
You are freed; all you need I will surely give you.'

Come, then, let us hasten yonder!
Here let all, great and small, kneel in awe and wonder!
Love him who with love is yearning!
Hail the star that from far bright with hope is burning!

Thee, dear Lord, with heed I'll cherish,
Live to thee, and with thee, dying, shall not perish;
But shall dwell with thee forever,
Far on high, in the joy that can alter never.

God Calls Us To Worship

God gathers us before his heavenly throne for a special time to renew our relationship with him together.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

the Second Adam and image of God, Immanuel, God with us.

Give glory to God in the highest through Jesus, our Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell

and through him to reconcile to himself all things in heaven and earth.

Amen!

O Come, All Ye Faithful



1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O come ye, O
2. True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, be - hold, he comes
3. Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger, now here we em -
4. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing, all ye
5. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je - sus, to



come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 forth from the vir - gin's womb, Son of God, be - got - ten, not cre - a - ted.
 brace thee with awe and love. Who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?
 ci - ti - zens of heav'n a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
 thee be all glo - ry giv'n, Word of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing.



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O



come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!



Text: Latin hymn; attr. J. F. Wade, 1743 Tr. F. Oakley, W. T. Brooke, M. Farley
 Tune: ADESTE FIDELES, J. F. Wade, 1743

We Praise God

We respond to God's call by honoring his majesty and goodness in song.

We Pray For God To Help Us Worship

We ask the Lord to work
in us by his Holy Spirit
to give us the desire and
ability to respond to him
in worship.

We Confess Our Sin

Together as the people
of God, we acknowledge
honestly to God what
is wrong and broken
in us and ask for
his forgiveness and
transforming grace.

Merry Christmas!

Jesus the Christ has come!

Christ has come indeed! Hallelujah!

Seated

Our help is in the name of the Lord, our Savior and Messiah.

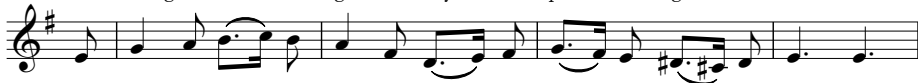
Let us confess our sin and sorrow to him.

What Child Is This?

All sing Verses 1 and 2



1. What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
2. Why lies he in such mean es - tate, where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Christ - ian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
Raise, raise the song on high; the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.



Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y.
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y.

Text: W. Chatterton Dix
Tune: GREENSLEEVES; Traditional English melody, 16th C.

Jesus our most worthy Savior and King,
we confess that we have all sinned and come short of your glory.
We have not sought first your kingdom and trusted your saving power,
but we have often closed our ears to your heavenly word
and sought salvation in worldly strengths and strategies.
We are prone to sinful fear
that leads to harmful habits of conflict or escape.
So we have not loved you with our whole heart,
and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves,
but we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
Messiah, have mercy on us.

(silent prayers of confession)

Heavenly Father, open our eyes to behold your love and your power in your promised Son, the Lamb of God, whose sacrifice takes away the sin of the world. Open our ears to hear your word, and open our hearts to trust that in Christ you are Immanuel, God with us, so that we receive your salvation and follow our King by the power of your Spirit. Amen.

All Sing Verse 3 of "What Child Is This?," on page 4

Standing (if able)

from John 3:16; 1:14, 16

God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth, and from his fullness we have all received grace upon grace.

For all who have turned from sin in sorrow and look to God for mercy, this is God's gift. In Jesus Christ, God loves you, God forgives you, God accepts you, and God rejoices over you as beloved daughters and sons.

Hallelujah, Amen!

God Declares Our Forgiveness

God responds joyfully to our confession by declaring his forgiveness and the security of his grace and delight in us as his beloved daughters and sons.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark! The he - rald an - gels sing Glo - ry to the new - born King;
 2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right - eous - ness!

peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners re - con - ciled.
 late in time be - hold him come off - spring of the vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful all ye na - tions rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see, hail, th'in - car - nate De - i - ty!
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,

with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem.
 Pleased as man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - ma - nu - el.
 born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them se - cond birth.

Hark! The he - rald an - gels sing Glo - ry to the new - born King.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1739; alt. George Whitefield
 Tune: Felix Mendelssohn

Luke 2:1–7

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And 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, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And 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.

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all ages, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. And we look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the age to come. Amen.

God Instructs Us In Scripture Reading

God speaks to us through the Bible to instruct, encourage, correct, comfort, and equip us to know, love, and follow him.

We Affirm Our Faith In God (Nicene Creed)

Seated

What Sweeter Music

Words by Robert Herrick; Music by John Rutter

Chancel Choir

What sweeter music can we bring
than a carol for to sing the birth of this our heav'nly King?
Awake the voice! Awake the string!
Dark and dull night fly hence away,
And give the honor to this day
that sees December turned to May.

Why does the chilling winter's morn
Smile, like a field beset with corn?
Or smell like a meadow newly shorn thus on the sudden?
Come and see the cause, why things thus fragrant be:
'Tis he is born, whose quick'ning birth gives life and lustre,
Public mirth, to heaven and the underearth.

We see him come, and know him ours,
Who with his sunshine and his show'rs
Turns all the patient ground to flow'rs.

The darling of the world is come,
And fit it is we find a room to welcome him.
The nobler part of all the house here, is the heart,
Which we will give him and bequeath this holly, and this ivy wreath,
To do him honor; who's our King, and Lord of all this reveling.

God Instructs Us In Scripture Reading

God speaks to us
through the Bible to
instruct, encourage,
correct, comfort, and
equip us to know, love,
and follow him.

Hebrews 1:1–4

¹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

This is God's good news of great joy.
Glory to God in the highest!

from Luke 2:10, 14

We respond to God by
affirming our trust in his
word.

"The Gift of Christ"- Rev. Dr. Clay Smith

Give electronically at centralpres.com/giving, or by texting CENTRALPRES to 77977

Standing (if able)

Joy To the World



1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come, let earth re - ceive her King.
2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em - ploy
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the ground.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions prove

Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him room, and heav'n and na - ture sing,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains re - peat the sound-ing joy,
He comes to make his bless - ings flow far as the curse is found,
the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness and won - ders of his love,

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and heav'n and na - ture sing.
re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound-ing joy.
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.
and won - ders of his love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Psalm 98, I. Watts, 1719

Tune: ANTIOCH, G. F. Handel, 1741 arr. L. Mason, 1836

God Instructs Us In Preaching

God speaks to us to
explain what his word
means and how to
respond to him with
loving obedience in our
daily lives.

We Offer Ourselves in Gifts and Song

We respond to God's
word by offering
ourselves to God with
renewed love and
commitment both in
song and in gifts of
money to support God's
mission in the world.

We Pray For The Church And The World

We respond to God's word by asking him to transform our lives, our communities, and the world through the renewing work of Jesus.

*Choir: Creator of the stars of night, thy people's everlasting light,
Jesu, Redeemer, save us all, and hear thy servants when they call.*

O eternal Son of God,
without beginning and without end,
you are the mighty Word by whom all things were made,
and you sustain all things by your power.
Please fill our hearts with awe and wonder at your majesty.
Kindle your light in our hearts,
that your glory may shine forth in our lives
and drive away the darkness of our shame and the shadow of death itself,
for you are the Light of Life.

Lord, save us by your mercy and power.

*Choir: Thou cam'st, the Bridegroom of the bride, as drew the world to evening-tide,
proceeding from a virgin shrine, the spotless Victim all divine.*

O Lord our Healer,
open our hearts to your healing compassion and care for us.
Heal the hurt that curses our lives with ruin and revenge.
Lead us to repent and turn again to you
to embrace the grace that comes by your sacrifice in bearing our curse on the cross
with hope for another new beginning and sustaining grace that is new every day.
Open our lives to your presence and power,
so that we will follow you fully on the long healing path
until the day we arrive at home when you return to restore all broken things
and resurrect your creation into immortal glory,
through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Lord, save us by your mercy and power.

*Choir: At whose dread name, majestic now, all knees must bend, all hearts must bow,
and things celestial thee shall own, and things terrestrial, Lord alone.*

O Christ, King and Lord of nations,
you rose from the dead, and your kingdom will have no end;
you will give eternal life to all who believe and follow you.
Send the good news to the farthest corners of the earth
so that people from every family and nation
will come to know you, bow before you,
and receive the salvation you offer us freely.
Help us all to trust you as our Savior with great joy
and to entrust our lives to you as our Lord and King with great reverence and awe.
Fulfill our truest longings and hopes in the life of the age to come,
so that we will enjoy eternal life with you in this world made new at your return.

Lord, save us by your mercy and power. Amen.

*Choir: To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One,
laud, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally.*

Text: Latin Hymn, 7th cent., Tr. J. M. Neale
Tune: CONDITOR ALME DIDERUM, Sarum plainsong, Mode IV

Silent Night



Choir: *Stil - le Nacht! Hei - lie - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft; ein - sam wacht*
All: 1. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
2. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight.
3. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light,

Nur das trau - te hoch - hei - li - ge Paar. Hol - der Knabe im lock - i - gen Haar,
'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild,
Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far; heav'n - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;
ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

Schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh! Schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh!
sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born, Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
Je - sus, Lord at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord at thy birth!

Text: Joseph Mohr; tr. J. Freeman Young
Tune: Franz Gruber

And all God's people said...
Hallelujah! Amen.

In Dulci Jubilo, BWV 729

J.S. Bach

Liturgist: Rev. Charles Godwin (7pm); Rev. Cole Lescher (9pm)

Musicians: Matthew Mazzoni (director), *piano & organ*; Cathy Benton, *piano & organ*

Cover Artwork: Arent de Gelder, *Simeon's Song of Praise*

We Praise God (by candlelight)

God Blesses Us And Sends Us Out

God sends us out into
the world with his
blessing to live with him
and serve the mission of
his kingdom.

Postlude