



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

First Presbyterian Church

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Jane M. Livingston, Director of Music

Gregg D. Townsend, Pastor

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

GATHERING MUSIC

"How Beautiful Are the Feet of Them"	G.F. Handel
"Noel, Noel!"	J.S. Bach
"Break Forth Into Joy"	J.S. Bach
"Overture" from "Unto Us a Child is Born"	J.S. Bach

LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

WELCOME

Pastor Gregg Townsend

INTROIT

“Fill the Silent Night”

Chancel Choir

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Advent is a time to proclaim.

Congregation: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

We proclaim a hope that is stronger than any trial.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

We proclaim a victory that is stronger than any defeat.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

We proclaim a peace that is stronger than any conflict.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

We proclaim a freedom that is stronger than any bondage.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

* CAROL

“Joy to the World”

#40

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 world! The Savior reigns. Let us our 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.

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.

* CAROL

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

#41

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.

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.

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation, O sing all ye bright Hosts 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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Pat-a-Pan”

Bell Choir

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Jenna, Andrew, Rory & Arlo Swindlehurst

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

Advent means coming. We are preparing for the full coming of God's Kingdom:

“The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”

— from Isaiah 2:4 NRSV

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

—Isaiah 11:6, NRSV

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

—Isaiah 35:1-2, NRSV

Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel (“God is with us”).

—from Isaiah 7:14, NRSV

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

—Isaiah 9:2, NRSV

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Jesus, Joy of the Highest Heaven”

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:1-14

* CAROL

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

#23

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 Christ whose birth the angels sing.

Come adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord the newborn King.

Gloria... in excelsis Deo! Gloria... in excelsis Deo!

* CAROL

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

#38

It came upon the midnight clear that glorious song of old.

From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold.

Peace on the earth good will to all from heaven's all gracious King.

The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled.

And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world.

Above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing.

And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And ye beneath life's crushing load whose forms are bending low.
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow.
Look now for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.

For lo the days are hastening on by prophet bards foretold
When with the ever-circling years, comes round the age of gold.
When peace shall over all the earth, its ancient splendors fling.
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 1:1-5

SPECIAL MUSIC

"I Saw Three Ships"

Arr. Sue

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

MESSAGE

"Heaven Opened: The Coming of Glory - The Glory Has Come"

CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER

* CAROL

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

#60

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

* POSTLUDE

"O Holy Night"

Adolphe Adam

*May this Christmas remind you of the incredible gift of Jesus
and fill your life with His joy, hope, and peace.*

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