

Camp Hill Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve

Lessons and Carols

December 24, 2022

7 p.m.

WELCOME!

Childcare is available from 8:45 a.m. to noon in Room 3 of the Kuhn Education Wing.
We also invite children to use our activity area in the sanctuary.

Assistive listening devices are available at the sound booth (rear of sanctuary).

Worship begins with the first note of the music — may we silence our voices and open our hearts, allowing the music to draw us together into the presence of God.

GATHERING MUSIC

Selections by the CHPC Brass Choir

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

In a world where people walk in darkness
Let us turn our faces to the light,
to the light of God revealed in Jesus,
to the Daystar scattering our night.
For the light is stronger than the darkness,
And the day will overcome the night.
Though the shadows linger all around us,
Let us turn our faces to the light.
In a world where suffering of the helpless
Casts a shadow all along the way,
Let us bear the Cross of Christ with gladness,
And proclaim the dawning of the day.
For the light is stronger than the darkness,
And the day will overcome the night.
Though the shadows linger all around us,
Let us turn our faces to the light.
Let us light a candle in the darkness,
In the face of death, a sign of life.
As a sign of hope where all seems hopeless,
As a sign of peace in place of strife,
For the light is stronger than the darkness,
And the day will overcome the night.
Though the shadows linger all around us,
Let us turn our faces to the light.

(The Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love are lit.)

*CAROL

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!*

*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!*

THE COMING OF THE LIGHT

INVOCATION

“Cloth for the Cradle,” Iona Community

Light looked down
and saw darkness.

"I will go there," said Light.

Peace looked down
and saw war.

"I will go there," said Peace.

Love looked down
and saw hatred.

"I will go there," said Love.

So

the Lord of Light
the Prince of Peace
the King of Love
came down
and crept in
beside us.

FIRST READING “We Live in Hope” Isaiah 9: 2-6

ANTHEM

Chill of the Nightfall
The Chancel Choir

K. Lee Scott

*Those who are able, please stand.
Bold indicates congregation’s participation.

TO US A SAVIOR IS BORN

SECOND READING

“Annunciation ”

Denise Levertov

We know the scene: the room, variously furnished,
almost always a lectern, a book;
always the tall lily.
Arrived on solemn grandeur of great wings, the angelic ambassador,
standing or hovering,
whom she acknowledges, a guest.
But we are told of meek obedience.
No one mentions courage.

The engendering Spirit
did not enter her without consent.
God waited.

Mary was free
to accept or to refuse,
choice integral to humanness.

Aren't there annunciations
of one sort or another
in most lives?

Some unwillingly undertake great destinies,
enact them in sullen pride, uncomprehending.

More often those moments
when roads of light and storm
open from darkness in a man or woman,
are turned away from
in dread, in a wave of weakness,
in despair and with relief.

Ordinary lives continue.
God does not smite them.
But the gates close, the pathway vanishes.

She had been a child who played, ate, slept
like any other child — but unlike others,
wept only for pity, laughed
in joy not triumph.

Compassion and intelligence
fused in her, indivisible.

Called to a destiny more momentous
than any in all of Time,
she did not quail,
only asked
a simple, 'How can this be?'
and gravely, courteously,
took to heart the angel's reply,
the astounding ministry she was offered:
to bear in her womb
Infinite weight and lightness;
to carry in hidden, finite inwardness,
nine months of Eternity;
to contain in slender vase of being,
the sum of power —
in narrow flesh, the sum of light.

Then bring to birth,
push out into air, a Man-child
needing, like any other,
milk and love —
but who was God.

This was the moment no one speaks of,
when she could still refuse.
A breath unbreathed,
Spirit,
suspended, waiting.

She did not cry, 'I cannot. I am not worthy,'
Nor, 'I have not the strength.'
She did not submit with gritted teeth,
raging, coerced.

Bravest of all humans,
consent illumined her.
The room filled with its light,
the lily glowed in it,
and the iridescent wings.
Consent,
courage unparalleled,
opened her utterly.

REFLECTION

“Echoing Mary’s Yes”

“The Reed of God,”
Caryll Houselander

“...to surrender all that we are, as we are, to the Spirit of Love in order that our lives may bear Christ into the world – that is what we shall be asked.”

(Silence.)

ANTHEM

Mary’s Wonder
The Chancel Choir

John Seagard

THIRD READING

“The Nativity of Our Lord”

Luke 2:1-7

ANTHEM

Silent Night
The Chancel Choir

Arr. Richard Elliot

FOURTH READING

“Good News of Great Joy”

Luke 2:8-14

CAROL NO. 114

Away in a Manger

FIFTH LESSON

“Glorifying and Praising God”

Luke 2:15-20

CAROL NO. 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MEDITATION

The Rev. Nancy Conklin

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

SIXTH LESSON

“Bringing Our Gifts”

Matthew 2:1-11

OFFERING

(Tonight’s offering will be given to the Harrisburg office of Church World Service.)

OFFERTORY

Angel’s Carol
The Chancel Choir

John Rutter

*DOXOLOGY

What Child Is This

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
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

“The Work of Christmas”

Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

(Please, only the unlit candle is to be tipped when lighting.)

SEVENTH LESSON

“The Word Became Flesh”

John 1:1-5

(The Christ Candle is lit.)

*CAROL

Silent 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**

May this eternal truth be always on our hearts:
That the God who breathed this world into being,
Placed stars into the heavens,
And designed a butterfly's wing,
Is the God who entrusted his life
To the care of ordinary people;
And became vulnerable, that we might know
How strong is the power of Love.
A mystery so deep, it is impossible to grasp.
A mystery so beautiful, it is impossible to ignore.
(*Please extinguish your candles, and all sing.*)

*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.*

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

John Rutter

POSTLUDE

Fanfare on Antioch

Gerre Hancock

Camp Hill Presbyterian Church
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