



The Order of Worship **December 24, 2015**
11:00 P.M.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

We welcome all to this service of worship, especially our visitors and guests. In the time before the service begins, we invite all who worship here to take a moment to offer a prayer lifting up to God the life and work of this family of faith and its pastors.

PROCURE A CANDLE IN THE NARTHEX

PRELUDE Variations for Organ on “Dix” David P. Dahl
Pietro A. Yon
Gesù Bambino
When blossoms flowered ‘mid the snows Upon a winter night, Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose, The King of Love and Light. The angels sang, the shepherds sang, The grateful earth rejoiced, And at His blessed birth the stars Their exultation voiced. O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Again the heart with rapture glows To greet the holy night That gave the world its Christmas Rose, Its King of Love and Light. Let ev’ry voice acclaim His name, The grateful chorus swell. From paradise to earth He came That we with Him might dwell. O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

trans. Frederick Martens

Andrea and Nicola Harrison and Meredith Mackay, Sopranos
Audrey Belyea, Piano

WELCOME AND INVOCATION Rev. Dr. Buran Phillips

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Ellen Anderson, Anne Dungan, Brenda Seip

CALL TO WORSHIP Sam Phillips

Leader: Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

People: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Leader: And this shall be a sign for you.

People: You will find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

Leader: And suddenly there was, with the angel, a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God.

People: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.

***HYMN NO. 31** (blue hymnal) Hark! The Herald Angels Sing Mendelssohn

CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 9:2,6-7

SCRIPTURE Psalm 96:1-6

SCRIPTURE Psalm 96:10-13

***HYMN NO. 40** (blue hymnal) Joy to the World!

SCRIPTURE Micah 5:2-5a

HYMN NO. 43 (blue hymnal) O Little Town of Bethlehem
(Please remain seated)

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:1-7

MOTET Dixit Maria ad Gabriel Will Bendy
Hans Leo Hassler
Dixit Maria ad Gabriel: Ecce ancilla Domini, fiat mihi, secundum verbum tuum.

And Mary said unto Gabriel: Behold the handmaid of the Lord, so it shall be, according to Thy word.

Luke 1:38

Ronald Arnatt

CAROL The Angel Gabriel

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame: “All hail,” said he, “thou lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady,” Gloria!

“For know a blessed mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor thee. Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold. Most highly favored lady,” Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head, “To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said. “My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name.” Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn, and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say—“Most highly favored lady,” Gloria!

Sabine Baring-Gould

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:8-14

MOTET O magnum mysterium Chris Phillips
Morten Lauridsen

O magnum mysterium, et admirabile sacramentum; ut animalia viderent Dominum natum Jacentem in praesepio Beata Virgo, Beata cujus viscera meruerunt portare Dominum Jesum Christum.

O great mystery and admirable sacrament, that the animals have seen the birth of the Lord, lying in a manger. O Blessed Virgin, whose womb has been seen worthy to carry our Lord Jesus Christ.

Responsory for Matins on Christmas Day

SCRIPTURE I John 4:16-19

CHRISTMAS EVE MEDITATION

***HYMN NO. 41** (blue hymnal) O Come, All Ye Faithful

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Tonight we will be celebrating Holy Communion by the method of intinction, where worshipers may come forward and take a piece of bread to dip into the cup. The ministers and ushers will direct you.

MUSIC FOR COMMUNION Of the Father’s Love Begotten Divinum mysterium
arr. James E. Clemens

Of the Father’s love begotten, Ere the worlds began to be, He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He, Of the things that are and have been, And that future years shall see, Evermore and evermore!

By His word was all created. He commanded, and ‘twas done. Earth and sky and boundless ocean, Universe of Three-in-One. All that sees the moon’s soft radiance, All that breathes beneath the sun, Evermore and evermore!

This is He whom seers in old time Chanted of with one accord, Whom the voices of the prophets Promised in their faithful word. Now He shines, the long expected. Let creation praise its Lord, Evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heav’n, adore Him; Angel hosts, His praises sing. Pow’rs, dominions fall before Him And extol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth keep silent, Every voice in concert ring, Evermore and evermore!

Marcus Aurelius Prudentis

Desseins éternels

Olivier Messiaen

Eternal Purposes

(from *La Nativité du Seigneur*)

“God, in his love, has predestined us to adoption as His sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, in accordance with His pleasure and will, to the praise of the glory of His grace.”

The Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians 1:5-6

CHANGING OF THE PARAMENTS

SERVICE OF CANDLE LIGHTING ...

The lights will be dimmed and the minister will light a candle from the Christ Candle. The minister will then light the candles of the ushers, who will then light the candles of the first person on each aisle. Light will then be passed from worshiper to worshiper. Remember that the lighted candle remains upright and the unlighted candle is tipped to the lighted candle.

***HYMN** Silent Night, Holy Night Stille Nacht

(The candle is held close to the breast)

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.

(The candle is extended outward)

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.”

(The candle is extended upward)

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.

Following the singing of the final hymn, ushers will direct the back pew to lead a silent recessional to carry the light outside, weather permitting. After everyone has gathered, we will sing the first verse of “Angels We Have Heard on High.” The text is found on the next page.

***BENEDICTION**

*Indicates standing.

Angels We Have Heard on High
Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria

Tom and Georgann Byerley..... In memory of Bill Beintema
Sara Cantrell..... In loving memory of Bob
Jack and Kati Carley. . . In honor of Mason, Monroe, Maddox and McClendon Carley
Chappell children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren

In memory of Bill and Lola Chappell
Barbara Cline. In honor of Gabrielle, Jeff, Lisa, Dan, Faith and Arianna
Debbie and Clifford Cruze

In honor of their grandchildren: Katelyn, Caleb, Heyward and Luke
Bud and Carolyn Cunningham..... In memory of their parents
James Dally..... In memory of William Hiram Dally
The Dean Family. In memory of Scott, Carter and Mimi
Christie Dowling. In memory of her mother, Betty M. Caldwell
Carol, Scott, Jami and Olivia Faulkner..... In memory of Kenneth L. Faulkner
Ruth and Joe Fielden..... In memory of George Fielden
and in honor of Barbara Fielden and Bill and Toby Kelly
Friends and Carpool group: Cindy, Jean, Hazel, Ginger and Linda

In memory of June Martin

John and Jan Gross

In honor of their grandchildren: Cate and Ella Connelly and Carter Gross
John and Betty Hanes. In honor of the Flower Guild
John and Margaret Harrison. In memory of Bill and Barbara Harrison,
Herb Belyea and Jane Albright; in honor of Audrey Belyea
Buz and Lucy Johnson. In memory of Ewing and Bernice Johnson
and John and Mary Watson
Anne and John Langley. In honor of Bryson Wilde, Molly and Anna Langley
Cile and Ed Mathews and the Mathews-Hemsley Family

In memory of Matt Mathews

Rob and Susan McKeenan. In memory of their parents and grandparents
Norman, Linda Judge and Caroline McRae. In memory of Huel McRae
and Christine Judge, parents and grandparents
Charlie and Alice Mercer. In honor of friends and family
Rick and Janice Rawe. In gratitude for their granddaughters: Nina, Margaret
and Samantha

David L. Ridenour..... In memory of Beth Ridenour
and in honor of Yale and Landis Gunn

Larry and Jeanne Ridley..... In memory of Paula Smartt and Bill Beintema
Chandler, Camryn and Connor Ryan and Josie Bice

In honor of their amazing Nana and Papaw, Tim and Joyce Ryan
Joyce and Tim Ryan. In honor of Mrs. Helen Ryan
John and Elizabeth Salsbery... . In memory of Chris Salsbery and Bonnee Rainwater
Brenda Seip. In honor and memory of Peter Adams Seip, beloved husband;
and her mother and father, Doris Stone Perkins Elliot and Robert Thomas Elliot
John Smartt..... In memory of Paula Smartt
Aunt Julia Tortorelli. In honor of William Joseph Martin
Kathleen and Larry Tragesser..... In memory of their parents:
George and Justine Dukas and Gene and Clovis Tragesser
and in honor of Peter Van Eenam

Robin and Joe Ben Turner. In memory of their parents
Renee and Bill Wieseuegel..... In memory of their mothers:
Natalie Smith and Shirley Jean Rechenbach

Claire and Thomas Wilson..... In honor of their grandmother, Nancy Dean
Jim and Linda Yates. In memory of Bob Cantrell, Chris Salsbery,
Barbara Schilling and Bonnee Rainwater

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Rev. Dr. Buran Phillips, Pastor

Rev. John Linton Muntz, Parish Associate

Peter Van Eenam, Organist and Choirmaster

Barbara Adamcik, Director of Youth and Connectional Ministries

Angela Grobe, Director of Children's Ministries

Mary Boyd, Education Coordinator

Renee Wieseuegel, Office Manager/Bookkeeper

Sandra Williams, Administrative Assistant

Rev. Friedrich Schilling, Jr., Pastor Emeritus

Debbie Bendy, *Abbey* Editor

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: Chancel Choir

OUR THANKS to Audrey Belyea, Andrea and Nicola Harrison, and Meredith Mackay for their enrichment of our worship tonight.

THIS EVENING'S ORGAN MUSIC FOR COMMUNION is offered in memory of the victims of the recent bombings in Paris. French composer Olivier Messiaen's mystical and deeply serene music transcends violence and hatred as it draws the listener to God's love for all humankind.

THE DESCANTS AND FREE ACCOMPANIMENTS heard tonight are by legendary British composer and conductor David Willcocks, whose choral music is well known to Westminster's congregation and to many others around the world. Director of the famed Choir of King's College, Cambridge, for many years, he has elevated sacred music through his descants and arrangements of carols, choral collections he has edited, recordings of the great choral literature, and with his interaction with choral directors at many conferences and workshops. We sing tonight's descants in celebration of his life and in his memory after he passed away this past September at the age of 95.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE: We will have one worship service at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 27 and on Sunday, January 3. Our regular schedule resumes January 10th, with worship at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. and Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be open Monday, December 28 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and Thursday, December 31 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. We will be closed Tuesday, December 29, Wednesday, December 30 and Friday, January 1. Regular office hours resume on Monday, January 4.

FINAL 2015 CONTRIBUTIONS as well as any 2016 prepaid offerings need to be in the church office by December 31. All offerings received by December 31 will be included in your 2015 contribution statement. If you have any questions regarding your contributions, please contact Renee Wieseuegel.

THE SESSION

Class of 2016: Jerry Faerber, Vicki Mayfield, Scott Porter, Elizabeth Ridley, Angela Shilling, Youth Elder: Ethan Partelow

Class of 2017: Phil Barnette, Bitsy Ingram, William Milam, Bryan Powell, Brenda Seip

Class of 2018: Leigh Dunlap, Steve Hoadley, JP Mackay, Linda Van Beke, Michael Yates

Clerk of Session: Georgann Byerley

Trustees: John Smartt, Larry Ridley, Paul Jorden

Symbolism of the Lights

The significance of the Candlelight Service is twofold. First, in the distribution of the lights, we see dramatized before us the spreading of the Gospel Message and the growth of the church through the centuries. The pastor's candle is symbolic of Christ, the living Word, and is an extension of the Christ candle in the Advent wreath. The ushers who carry the light to the congregation represent the Apostles whom Christ sent out to spread the Word and draw the world to Him. The church has grown because men and women and young people who have heard the Good News have been faithful in telling someone else about it, and this is symbolized by your passing the light to the person beside you. The ushers will light the candle closest to the aisle. As each candle bursts into flame and the sanctuary gradually brightens, we catch the significance of Jesus' statement that we are "the light of the world," and that we should spread this light to the "very ends of the world." Secondly, we find significance in the lights during the singing of the dedication hymn. During the singing of the first verse, we hold our lights close as we rededicate ourselves to Christ. As we sing the second verse, we hold the candle out in front of us as we rededicate our homes and families once again to him. During the last verse, we hold our candles high as we rededicate our part of His church here to the task of taking the Gospel Light to every corner of the earth. After the Benediction, please extinguish your light. Receptacles for the spent candles are located in the narthex.

Please use extreme caution in the handling of the lighted candles to prevent accidents with the hair or clothing of the person in front of you and the pews. Children must be carefully supervised. For safety's sake, it is requested that children under six should "share" their parents candle.

Our thanks to Maggie Bendy for our bulletin art this evening. Maggie is the daughter of Jeff and Debbie Bendy and granddaughter of Dick and Joanne Bendy.

Advent Flowers 2015

We would like to thank everyone for their contributions to our Flower Guild during this Advent Season.

Robert and Lucinda Albiston

In memory of Lucinda's parents, John and Eileen Moran
Laura and Jack Barron. In honor of their children, granddaughter and husband
and 3 precious great-granddaughters

Susan Baughman..... In memory of Richard Baughman
Carol Beilharz, children and grandchildren. In loving memory of Clark
Dick and Joanne Bendy. In memory of Paula Smartt and Bill Beintema
Jean and Brian Bonnyman. . . In memory of Betty Hall Kalister and Mrs. June Martin
Abbott and Esta Brayton. In memory of Rev. Douglas and Elinor Brayton
Marlene Browning.. In memory of husband, Larry and sons, Steve and Craig
The Burgin Family..... In memory of Dr. Lubomir S. Hnilica