

Redeemer
Presbyterian Church
exists to see our city
renewed by the gospel
of Jesus Christ.

Love God
Love People
Love Tyler



The Order of Celebration and Worship of God

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Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 24, 2023

*To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest;
to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all
who struggle and desire victory; to all who
sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers
and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst
after righteousness; and to all who will
come— this church opens wide her doors
and offers welcome in the name of the
Lord Jesus Christ.*

Opening Prayer

Greeting and Call To Worship

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: *And also with you.*
Leader: In the story of Abraham, in the psalms of David, in the words of Isaiah, in the dream of Joseph, your promise is spoken, eternal God, and takes flesh at last in the womb of the virgin.
People: *May Emmanuel find welcome in our hearts, take flesh in our lives, and be for all peoples the welcome advent of redemption and grace.*
Leader: We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose Day draws near; your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
People: *Amen.*

The First Candle and Old Testament Reading | Isaiah 60.1-6

[1] Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
[2] For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.
[3] And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

[4] Lift up your eyes all around, and see;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from afar,
and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.
[5] Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and exult,
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
[6] A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

Concluding Hymn with Candle Lighting | Silent Night

Words and Music by Joseph Mohr

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

Leader: Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word:
Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
People: *Amen and Amen.*

The Fourth Candle and Gospel Reading | Luke 2.1-20

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

[8] And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. [9] And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. [10] And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. [11] For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. [12] And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” [13] And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

[14] “Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

[15] When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” [16] And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. [17] And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. [18] And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. [19] But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. [20] And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Christ Candle and Homily | The Shepherds Saw!

Rev. Benjamin Wheeler

Opening Hymn | O Little Town of Bethlehem

Words by Phillips Brooks, 1868

*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.*

*For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.*

*How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still the dear Christ enters in.*

*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.*

The Second Candle and Epistle Reading | Luke 1.46b-55

[46] And Mary said,
“My soul magnifies the Lord,
[47] and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
[48] for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
[49] for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
[50] And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
[51] He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;
[52] he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;
[53] he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
[54] He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
[55] as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

The Third Candle and Psalm | Psalm 132

Leader: Remember, O LORD, in David’s favor, all the hardships he endured,
People: *How he swore to the LORD and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob,*
Leader: “I will not enter my house or get into my bed,
People: *I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids,*
Leader: Until I find a place for the LORD, a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob.”

People: *Behold, we heard of it in Ephrathah; we found it in the fields of Jaar.*
Leader: “Let us go to his dwelling place; let us worship at his footstool!”

People: *Arise, O LORD, and go to your resting place, you and the ark of your might.*
Leader: Let your priests be clothed with righteousness, and let your saints shout for joy.
People: *For the sake of your servant David, do not turn away the face of your anointed one.*

Leader: The LORD swore to David a sure oath from which he will not turn back: “One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne.
People: *If your sons keep my covenant and my testimonies that I shall teach them, their sons also forever shall sit on your throne.”*

Leader: For the LORD has chosen Zion; he has desired it for his dwelling place:
People: *“This is my resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it.*
Leader: I will abundantly bless her provisions; I will satisfy her poor with bread.
People: *Her priests I will clothe with salvation, and her saints will shout for joy.*
Leader: There I will make a horn to sprout for David; I have prepared a lamp for my anointed.
People: *His enemies I will clothe with shame, but on him his crown will shine.”*

Hymn of Praise | Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
Traditional Polish Carol

*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 a 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.*