

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 24, 2011 7:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE

SEASONAL MUSIC

Howie Evert, Guitarist

PRELUDE

Noel Joyeux

-Young

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice. The grace of God has come to save us.

People: For our sakes, God sent the child of Bethlehem. For our salvation, Jesus came to live among us.

Leader: Let all people sing for joy and give thanks. Tell the world what God has done in our midst.

People: God has called and chosen us to hear good news. God's marvelous works are new every morning.

Leader: Glory to God in the highest. Peace on earth to all who please God.

People: We seek to honor God in this time of worship. We want to know for ourselves what God has done.

*PROCESSIONAL CAROL

41 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

*All who are able may stand

*PRAYER OF THE DAY (unison)

Good and gracious God, on this holy night we remember you gave us your Son, the Lord of the universe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, the Savior of all, lying in a manger. On this holy night draw us into the mystery of your love. Join our voices with the heavenly host that we may sing your glory on high. Give us a place among the shepherds that we may find the one for whom we have waited, Jesus Christ the Messiah and Lord, who with us as He taught, lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

1st READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

CAROL 48 *Lo, How A Rose E're Blooming*

2nd READING: Matthew 1:18-25

CAROL 47 *Still, Still Still*

3rd READING: Luke 2:1-7

CAROL 53 *What Child Is This*

4th READING: Luke 2:8-14

CAROL "Angels We Have Heard on High" - Caryn Barber & Wendy Warren

5th READING: Luke 2:15-20

CHORAL ANTHEM

Lullaby

-Beck

MEDITATION

The Innkeeper, written by Frederick Buechner

CAROL

Away in a Manger

- Caryn Barber & Wendy Warren

LITANY FOR CHRISTMAS

Leader: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia!

People: Shout to the Lord, all the earth. Alleluia!

Leader: O Christ, splendor of God's eternal glory, the mighty Word, sustaining the universe: Renew our lives by your presence.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: O Christ, born into the world in the fullness of time for the liberation of all creation: Release all into your promised freedom.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: O Christ, begotten of the Father before all time, born in a stable at Bethlehem: May your church be a sign of hope and joy.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: O Christ, truly God and truly human, born to a people in fulfillment of their expectations: Fulfill our desires in you.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: O Christ, born of the Virgin Mary, child of wonder and splendor, mighty God of all ages, Prince of Peace: Be born in us anew this night.

People: Lord, have mercy.

(After a brief silence, the leader concludes the litany)

Leader: All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Teach us to proclaim the birth of your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with us in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

O Little Town of Bethlehem

-Hustad

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (all together)

Wonder-making God, your gifts are surprising and beyond our expectation. Thank you for gifting us once again with Christmas. We join ourselves and our offerings with the shepherds who returned to their work glorifying and praising you for all they had seen and heard. With Mary, we will ponder the words and music of this holy event. Transform us as messengers of good news that we may serve you with vision and high purposes in the days ahead.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

May it be well with you.

All **And also with you.**

Life is a gift and we its celebration.

All **May we rejoice in the beauty that we are.**

(All are invited to come forward for communion. Taking a piece of bread, dip it in the chalice and consume. The pastor will offer anointing to any who desire.)

CHORAL COMMUNION ANTHEM

A Gift of Alleluia

-Martin

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

(Many Candles, One Light!)

SHARING THE LIGHT Introductory: "Silent Night" Caryn Barber & Wendy Warren

***Congregational Carol** 60 *Silent Night, Holy Night*

(As we sing Silent Night please pass the light one to another by tipping the unlighted candle to the lighted one)

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 host 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

The Light of God surrounds us; the Love of God enfolds us;

The Power of God protects us; the Presence of God watches over us;

Wherever we are, God is. Alleluia! Amen.

POSTLUDE

Chimed

RECESSIONAL CAROL

40

Joy to the World

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Worship Leader: Rev. David G. Persons
Organist: Sue Maciejewski
Pianist: Wendy Warren
Flutist: Caryn Barber
Guitarist: Howard Evert
Layreader: Sue Piersa



The Deacons would like to thank all those who purchased the poinsettias plants that are so beautifully decorating our sanctuary this evening

In Memory of

In Celebration of

Linda Barrows

Departed Family & Loved Ones

Betty Rasp

Paul Rasp

Carol & Tom Vaughan

Loved Ones

George Shaffer & Michael Cooper

Loved Ones

Barb & Walt Kissel

Children & Grandchildren

Dick & Edie Fischer

Marge & Kenneth Edington,
Ruth Ann & Geo Getselman,
Emily & Joe Fischer, Alexandar Fischer

Richard & Janice Jones

Departed family & friends &
our beloved Micki

Cheryl Wilczak

Rich, Marion, Les, Rod Labby

Crystal & Tom Jr.

Kathy & Paul Saeli

Rachel, Enrique, Chris,
Becky, Tito, Lizzie & Ben

Sharon Utech & Thomas Beam

Congratulations to Tom
on new grandson

Merry Christmas

First Presbyterian Church

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