

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2025, 5:00 PM

PRELUDE Violin Duets – Cadhla Norris and David Arends

PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP
(for silent prayer during the prelude)

Be near us, Lord Jesus, we ask you to stay close by us forever and love us, we pray. Immanuel, we invite you to draw near and dwell with us. Surround us with your tender, caring presence, that what we say and do in worship might prepare us to live forever with you in heaven. In your powerful name we pray. Amen.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Good Christian friends, Rejoice! Today your Lord comes in love and power, in grace and truth, offering hope and peace.

All: Christ is born today! Alleluia!

One: This promised one, mighty, though small, is our hope, our strength, and our life.

All: Christ is born to save! Alleluia!

One: In hope, let us worship God.

All: Alleluia! Amen!

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE Wittmier Family

***OPENING HYMN** “Angels We Have Heard on High” **#23**

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 9: 2-7 Gary Klette
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. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests

upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

SPECIAL MUSIC “Mary, Did You Know?” Susan Emrick

NEW TESTAMENT READING Luke 2: 1-7 Gary Klette
In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

ANTHEM “In Bethlehem” **Choir**

READING Luke 2: 8-20 Gary Klette
In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her

heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

HYMN “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks” **#59**
(vs. 1, 3, 4, 6)

SERMON “Make Haste! The Savior Is Born!” David Arends

HYMN “O Come, All Ye Faithful” **#41**

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S SUPPER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise

One: ... Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. (Lt. Blue Book #124)

One: ... Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we take this bread and this wine from the gifts you have given us and celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the one crucified and risen. Great is the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

One: ... Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

One: The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Let us keep the feast.

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM “Silent Night” Choir with Arends Family

PASSING THE LIGHT OF THE CANDLES WITH CLOSING HYMN
“Silent Night, Holy Night” #60

BENEDICTION

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

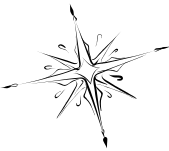
Welcome to our **Candlelight Service this evening!** Please ask for a candle from one of the deacons in the narthex if you did not receive one when you came in. For the safe enjoyment of the candles this evening, please keep your candle upright while it is lit, with the plastic cup surrounding the flame. It is our sincere prayer that this service will help bring the light of Christ’s loving presence into each of our lives, and into all our homes, this Christmas.

Thanks go to David Arends, our reader this evening Gary Klette, Dave Thomas for accompaniment, our duet violinists Cadhla Norris & David Arends, soloist Susan Emrick, the choir, Arends Family, and Advent Wreath Lighters Wittmier Family.

The Church Office will be closed **Thursday, December 25th** for Christmas. Merry Christmas everyone!

It’s almost that time of year again. Annual reports are due in the church office **the week after Christmas**. If the office is not open when your report is ready, you may put it in an envelope and slip it through the mail slot or email your report to conpres@3rivers.net.

We are receiving gifts to the **Christmas Joy Offering**, a Presbyterian Church (USA) special offering that provides grants to church related minority colleges and schools, and aid to retired missionaries, ministers and church workers. Please use the special envelopes.



Fulfillment

From Sharlande Sledg

O, Lord, you have come!

You have broken through the darkness of our world,
and so we sing your praise.

You introduced joy to our world –
joy that outlasts the festivities of December
joy that supersedes the excited activity of Christmas Day
joy that comes to us and remains with us
because of your abiding love.

In an act of love,
you closed the circle between
promise and fulfillment
Creator and created
Word and world.

We worship the Christ who grew up
to show us what God is like,
who called all people unto him
and who calls us
to share the Incarnate Word with the world.

So as a church now we sing:
“Come and worship, come and worship.
Worship Christ the newborn King.”



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Church



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