

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Worship for December 24, 2020

Christmas Eve – 4:00 PM

Gathering Music

Prelude – **Hark the Herald Angels Sing**

Advent Candle Lighting and Christ Candle Lighting – Nancy Thomas

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him. In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Candlelighting song

Call to Worship

Let us go, in heart and mind, to see what has come to pass.

Let us go with the shepherds:

Let us go to find the Savior!

Let us go with the wise ones:

Let us go to find God's promise, born for us!

Let us go with the poor and humble:

Let us go to find our King, born in a lowly manger.

Let us go with all the world, with all the peoples of the nations.

Come, let us worship; come, let us adore Him:

Christ the Lord!

*Carol #44 – “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ST. LOUIS

*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 men on earth!*

Call to Confession

Tonight we celebrate that Jesus, our Lord, came to earth as a human, just like us but without sin. He came so that we who sin may be freed from sin. With the peace that comes from knowing Jesus came, let us confess our sins and be forgiven.

Prayer of Confession (In unison)

Generous God, you give us the greatest gift of all, yourself, but often we find it hard to take notice; we are caught up with our own gifts, given and received. Forgive us, generous God, for the casual way we treat your gift of love. Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.

Solo – **Night of Silence**

Assurance of Pardon

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.
Jesus Christ is our life and light the hope of our redemption.

Time with Children – Jan Hunt

*Carol #23 – “Angels We Have Heard on High”

GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,

and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains:

Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

***Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song.***

Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

First Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

9:2 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.

9:3 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.

9:4 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.

9:5 For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

9:6 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.

9:7 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.

Second Scripture Lesson

Luke 2:1-20

2:1 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.

2:2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

2:3 All went to their own towns to be registered.

2:4 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.

2:5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

2:6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.

2:7 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.

2:8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

2:9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

2:10 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:

2:11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

2:12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

2:13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

2:14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

2:15 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."

2:16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

2:17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;

2:18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

2:19 But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

2:20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon - **"A Weary World Rejoices"** Rev. Jennifer A. Baer

*Carol #29 - **"Go Tell it on the Mountain"**

Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. [Refrain]

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]

Communion by Intinction

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Gesu Bambino

Jessica Starcher

*Doxology (Hymn 592)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise Him all creatures. Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

Candle Lighting

*Hymn #60 – “Silent Night”

STILLE NACHT

***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, heav'nly 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 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."***

*Sending Forth and Benediction

*Postlude – **“Joy to the World!”**

HANDEL

Liturgist: Michael Williams

Head Deacons: Karen Perzia & Rich Burkhardt

Pastor: Rev. Jennifer A. Baer

Music Director: Pamela Carroll

Thank You to Jessica Starcher our resident soloist this evening & throughout the year. We are extremely grateful to Jessica for being here and sharing her talent with us on this very special night. We also would like to thank the Howorth Trust Committee for their continued support and funding of the music program at Trinity.