

APOLLO UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2025 7:30 P.M.

ORDER of WORSHIP

The tradition of the Lessons & Carols service goes back to 19th century England. This special service proclaims the Word not through a sermon but through 'lessons,' or scripture readings, and accompanying carols. Tonight's service honors the structure of this traditional service while incorporating different scripture readings and carols to tell the Christmas story.

PRELUDE "Oh Come, All Ye Faithful"

with Zach Bush, Trumpet ~ Sam Mullooly, Trombone

DECLARATION OF GOOD NEWS

God is telling a story in our lives.

It's quite a story-

full of the promises God makes

and our struggles to trust;

full of mystery and angels

with surprising news;

full of hard endings

and unexpected new beginnings.

Come, hear the story

pay attention to the angels' message

in your heart

in this place and time.

Then join all creation

in worshipping the God

who tells it

full of grace and truth;

who comes in Jesus,

the Word made flesh,

and makes our story holy.

author: Christine Jerrett

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE The Motosicky Family
One: From the manger, hope, peace, joy, and love are growing—growing to be God with us. His name is Jesus.

All: First, we light the candle of hope. Hope is believing things can get better with compassion and imagination.

One: Next, we light the candle of peace. Peace is what happens when everyone treats each other, themselves, and the world kindly.

All: Then, we light the candle of joy. Joy is when you feel so thankful you could burst with excitement and gratitude.

One: Tonight, we light the candle of love. Love is the care and connection binding us together with each other and God.

All: Joy to the world! Jesus has been born! Tonight, we light the Christ candle, because Jesus, the Bread of Life, has been born today in Bethlehem! So all creation can be fed, he will be God with us!

SIGN OF PEACE

***CAROL #121**

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

THE FIRST LESSON **Genesis 1:26–2:4** **Carol Kopnick**

CAROL #88

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" v. 1-4

THE SECOND LESSON **Isaiah 9:2, 6–7** **Alex Kaminski**

CAROL #140

"Once in Royal David's City" v. 1, 2, 4

THE THIRD LESSON **Luke 1:26–35** **Caelin Kaminski**

CAROL #119

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

THE FOURTH LESSON **Luke 2:1–20** **Mike Mollick**

CAROL #147

"The First Nowell" v. 1-2

THE FIFTH LESSON

Psalms 98

Avery Zukas

CAROL #134

“Joy to the World”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

“Ave Maria”

Bach-Gounod

THE SHARING OF LIGHT

John 1

***HYMN #122**

Silent Night

v. 1-3

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

“A Christmas Potpourri”

J. Mansfield

- *Please stand in body or spirit*

Wrapping our community in God's love, one person at a time.

We believe that we are all ministers supported by:

Rev. Niki Atkinson – Office Hours Wed. & Fri. 9:30-4:00 (2026)

Please call for appointments.

E-mail pastor@aupc.comcastbiz.net

Amy Shupe, Organist; Joel Varga, Assistant Organist

Zach Bush, Trumpeter Sam Mullooly, Trombonist

Linda Truffa, Office Administrator

Jerrilyn Mollick, Custodian

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