

Welcome to Community Presbyterian Church!

DECEMBER 24, 2020

CHRISTMAS EVE

5:30 p.m.

Welcome to this Sacred Time and Holy Place of Worship.

Quote for Meditation: *“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.”*
- Titus 2:11–14

GREETING and PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Chris Scrivens

PRELUDES:

“I Wonder as I Wander”

arr. Cathy Moglebust

Bell Choir

“Do You Hear What I Hear?”

arr. Cathy Moglebust

Solo Trio: Vicki Kopacka, piano; Matt McConnell, trumpet; Al Kopacka, vocalist

“Coventry Carol”

arr. by Cynthia Dobrinski

“Lo, How a Rose”

arr. by Cathy Moglebust

Bell Choir

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES and the CHRIST CANDLE:

One: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let all creation sing for joy at the coming of the Lord.

All: *The Lord of hosts is coming to restore us; God’s face will shine, and we will be saved.*

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

One: When the Lord restores our lives,
we will be like those who dream;
those who sow in tears will reap with shouts of joy.

**All: *We will sing of God’s steadfast love forever;
we will proclaim the faithfulness of the Lord to all generations.***

One: Light dawns for the righteous, and joy to the upright in heart.
Rejoice in the Lord! Give thanks to God’s holy name.
Sing the Lord a new song, for God has done marvelous things. Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

Sung response: #93 “Lift Up Your Head, Ye Mighty Gates” Cantor Matt Petrozelli

*“Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Good and gracious God,
on this holy night you gave us your Son,
the Lord of the universe, wrapped in swaddling clothes,
the Savior of all, lying in a manger.

All: *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 lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.*

OPENING HYMN: #133 “O Come, All Ye Faithful” Cantor Matt Petrozelli

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him, born the King of angels!**

*Refrain: O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
sing all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!**

*Refrain: O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!**

*Refrain: O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**God of grace and truth,
in Jesus Christ you came among us
as light shining in darkness.
We confess that we have not welcomed the light,
or trusted good news to be good.
We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst,
expecting little, and hoping for less.
Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope,
so that we may receive the fullness of your grace,
and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Sung response:

Cantor Matt Petrozelli

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

The Promise of a Savior: Isaiah 9:2; 6-7:

The Birth Announcement: Luke 1:26-35, 38:

The Arrival in Bethlehem: Luke 2:1,3-7:

The Announcement to the Shepherds: Luke 2:8-16:

The Wise Men: Matthew 2:1-12:

The Light Has Come: John 1:1-14:

CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

Rev. Chris Scrivens

HYMN: #113 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

**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 heavenly song?**

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

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord the newborn King.**

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

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Litany for Christmas

One: Dear Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
We come to you this Christmas with thankful hearts. We praise you for the gift of Christ
Jesus, our Savior!

All: Welcome, Lord Jesus!

One: The story of Christ's birth never gets old.
We savor the beautiful scriptures.
We remember how the Messiah arrived as a baby in Bethlehem. We sing songs to echo
the joy of the angels.

All: Glory to the newborn King!

One: We know that Christ was born into world darkened by sin and injustice.
In our world today, people are still suffering.
Even in this season of bright lights and joyful songs, we cannot forget that there are people in pain because of poverty, hunger, and disaster and pandemic.

All: *Our world is so broken, oh Lord.*

One: Like the angels, we have Good News to share. Jesus Christ is here to change our stories of hardship into testimonies of hope!

All: *Thank you, Immanuel – God with us.*

One: Guide us, Messiah,
so we can bear witness to your mercy and love.
Equip us to support each other,
so that more people can have
enough food, good health, fruitful work, and greater justice.

All: *May we demonstrate your grace.*

One: We are deeply grateful that Jesus can change our stories, so we can be free from sin and gain eternal life.
We rejoice in all the great things God has done for us.

**All: *“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests!” (Luke 2:14)***

HYMN: #119 “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

**“Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, off-spring of the virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the God head see; hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”**

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”**

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

**MUSICAL INTERLUDE: “O Holy Night”
Duet: Vicki Kopacka, Judy Treutlein**

Adolphe Adam

PASTORAL PRAYER and THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

CONGREGATIONAL CANDLE LIGHTING

**“O Holy Night” into “Silent Night”
“Joy to the World!”**

arr. Julie A. Lind

Please gently blow out your candles

BENEDICTION

Rev. Chris Scrivens

POSTLUDE:

“Bring A Torch, Jeanette Isabella”

arr. Chip Davis

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Participating in today's Worship and Fellowship are . . .

Pastor:	Rev. Christopher W. Scrivens
Director of Family Ministries:	Deacon Melissa Ash
Music Director:	Matt Petrozelli
Organist:	Mary Elizabeth Rawley

Welcome to our virtual Christmas Eve Family Worship service.



E-Giving at Community Presbyterian Church

If you would like to donate to the mission of Community Presbyterian Church, just scan the QR code to the left and it will take you to our donations page, managed by the PCUSA.

Merry Christmas