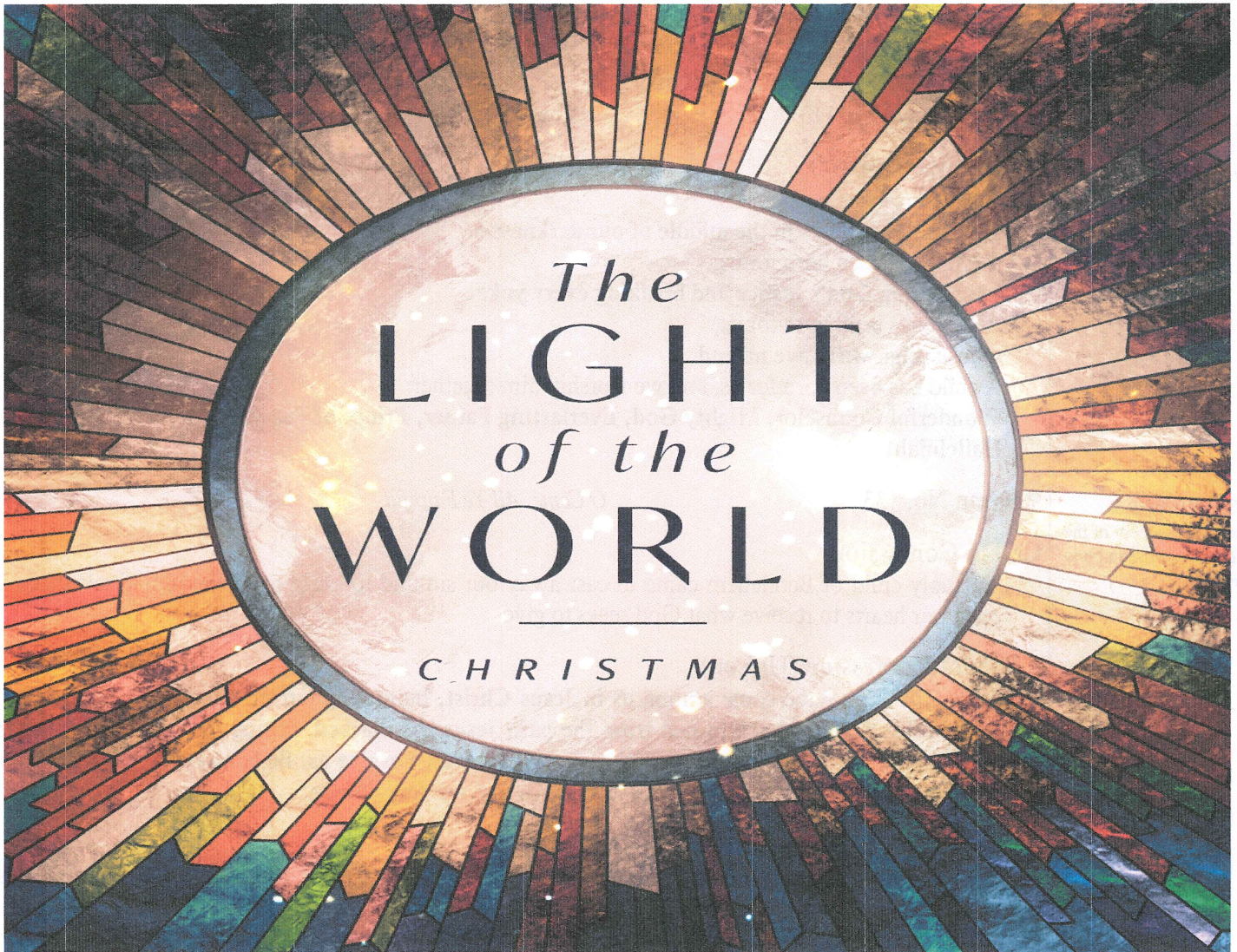


# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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*Christmas Eve*  
*December 24, 2024*



700 Wood Street, Clarion, PA 16214

814-226-8145

[churchoffice@clarionfirstpresby.org](mailto:churchoffice@clarionfirstpresby.org)

[www.clarionfirstpresby.org](http://www.clarionfirstpresby.org)

**We come together to worship, grow, and serve as disciples of Christ.**

PER THE SESSION, MASKS ARE NOW OPTIONAL UNLESS YOU HAVE AN UPPER RESPIRATORY AILMENT.

# We Gather in God's Name

(Tune your car radio to 88.7 FM)

Christmas Eve

## Welcome and Announcements

Lector, Cindy Stants

We silently shift our focus to God and prepare to worship.

## Prelude

*Christmas Carol Collage*

arr. Jean Mitrosky

## Chiming of the Trinity

## Advent Reading and Candle Lighting

Matthew Kurtas, Alexis Burns & Lucy Burns

Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

Hymn No. 110

*Love Has Come*

## Call to Worship

A child has been born for us.

**A great light shines in the middle of our darkness.**

A child has been born for us,

**establishing God's justice and breaking every yoke.**

A child has been born for us,

**whose reign will have no end.**

A child has been born for us, and we worship him together:

**Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

**Hallelujah!**

✦ When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.

## ✦ Hymn No. 133

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

## Call to Confession

The holy child of Bethlehem came to cast away our sin and to bring to us the gift of salvation. Let us open our hearts to receive what God seeks to give.

## Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Holy God, you have come among us in Jesus Christ, hallowing our humanity and embodying love.

We confess that we have turned from the path Jesus has marked, failing to claim all you intend for us, withholding love from our neighbors and ourselves. Forgive us. Be born anew in us, that our lives might reflect Christ's radiant light. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

## Declaration of Forgiveness

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to us all! With Christ's birth comes forgiveness and redemption.

**Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!**

GLORIA PATRI  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen

## ✦ Gloria Patri

# We Share God's Word

## Time with the Children

Debra Owens

## Prayer of Illumination

## Scripture Lesson

Luke 2:1-4

(p. 58)

## Hymn #121 O Little Town of Bethlehem

## Scripture Lesson

Luke 2:5-7

## Hymn #115 Away in a Manger

Scripture Lesson	Luke 2:8-12
Hymn #119	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Scripture Lesson	Luke 2:13-14
Hymn #113	Angels We Have Heard on High
Scripture Lesson	Luke 2:15-19
Hymn #145	What Child Is This
Scripture Lesson	Luke 2:20
Hymn #136	Go Tell It on the Mountain

Christmas Meditation	Moving Into the Neighborhood	Rev. Rebecca Mihm
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## We Give Thanks to God

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory	<i>Born Tonight in Bethlehem</i>	Price, Besig
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✦Doxology

✦Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

✦The Christ Candlelight is Shared

Our candles will be lit this evening with the International Peace Light that has traveled from person-to-person from an eternal flame in Bethlehem, Israel to Clarion, PA. It's light, warmth, and message of peace come to us from the birthplace of Jesus. Let us praise Jesus, the Prince of Peace, and seek to be peacemakers which he has called us to be.

✦Hymn #122 (Insert) **Silent Night** As we sing this hymn, please raise your candle during the 4th verse.

## We Go Forth to Serve

✦Hymn No. 134 (Insert) *Joy to the World*

✦Proclamation and Benediction

Postlude	<i>O Holy Night</i>	Adolphe Adam
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### DOXOLOGY

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

### 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.

### POSTLUDE

Please remember at the close of the service to remain quiet and seated until the conclusion of the Postlude, which marks the end of the worship service.



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**Advent Hymn:** "Love Has Come" from Glory to God #110. Text: Ken Bible, 1996. Music: French melody; arr. Eric T. Myers, 2012. Text: © 1996 *LNWhymns.com* (admin. *Music Services*). Music Arr.: © Eric T. Myers. Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.

**1<sup>st</sup> Hymn:** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" from Glory to God #133. Text: John Francis Wade, c. 1743. Trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, alt. Music: John Francis Wade, c. 1743; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906. Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Hymn:** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" from Glory to God #121. Text: Phillips Brooks, 1868. Music: Lewis Henry Redner, 1868. Text & Music: Public Domain. Livestreamed with permission under CCLI Streaming Plus License™ A-21963048 and reprinted with permission under Church Copyright License ® A-21963031, Public Domain.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Hymn:** "Away in a Manger" from Glory to God #115. Text: Stanzas 1-2, *Little Children's Book for Schools and Families*, c. 1885; stanza 3, *Gabriel's Vineyard Songs*, 1892. Music: James R. Murray, 1887. Text & Music: Public Domain. Livestreamed with permission under CCLI Streaming Plus License™ A-21963048 and reprinted with permission under Church Copyright License ® A-21963031, Public Domain.

**4<sup>th</sup> Hymn:** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" from Glory to God #119. Text: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt. Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. William Hayman Cummings, 1855. Text & Music: Public Domain. Livestreamed with permission under CCLI Streaming Plus License™ A-21963048 and reprinted with permission under Church Copyright License ® A-21963031, Public Domain.

**5<sup>th</sup> Hymn:** "Angels We Have Heard on High" from Glory to God #113. Text: French carol; tarns. James Chadwick, 1860, alt. Music: French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937. Music: © 1937, ren. 1965 *H. Augustine Smith, Jr.* (admin. *Fleming H. Revell Company*, a div. of *Baker Publishing Group*). Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.

**6<sup>th</sup> Hymn:** "What Child Is This" from Glory to God #145. Text: William Chatterton Dix, 1871. Music: English ballad, 16<sup>th</sup> cent.; arr. *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871. Text & Music: Public Domain. Livestreamed with permission under CCLI Streaming Plus License™ A-21963048 and reprinted with permission under Church Copyright License ® A-21963031, Public Domain.

**7<sup>th</sup> Hymn:** "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" from Glory to God #136. Text: African American spiritual; stanzas, John W. Work II, 1940. Music: African American spiritual; arr. John W. Work III, 1940; harm. Melva Wilson Costen, 1987. Music Harm.: © 1989 *Melva Wilson Costen*. Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.

**Offertory:** "Born Tonight in Bethlehem," Nancy Price and Don Besig. Text & Music: © 1999 *Glory Sound* (admin. by *Hal Leonard, LLC*) (admin. by *Tom Cat Music*). Livestreamed with permission under CCLI Streaming Plus License™ A-21963048, all rights reserved.

**8<sup>th</sup> Hymn:** "Silent Night, Holy Night" from Glory to God #122. Text: Joseph Mohr, 1816; stanzas 1-3, English trans. John Freeman Young, 1863; stanza 4, English trans. Jane Montgomery Campbell, 1863, alt. Music: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818. Text & Music: Public Domain. Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, Public Domain.

**9<sup>th</sup> Hymn:** "Joy to the World" from Glory to God #134. Text: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt. Music: Arr. George Frederick Handel, 1742; arr. Lowell Mason, 1836. Text & Music: Public Domain. Livestreamed with permission under CCLI Streaming Plus License™ A-21963048 and reprinted with permission under Church Copyright License ® A-21963031, Public Domain.

**Postlude:** "O Holy Night," Adolph Adam, Tom Fettke. Livestreamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.

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As we pass the light, please take care, especially around children, to hold the candle by the cup instead of the taper. Remember, **the lit candle is never tipped**. Please place your candle in one of the baskets near the exits as you leave.

**Christmas Poinsettias**—If you ordered poinsettias, please take them with you this evening after worship.

🕯 If you wish to take the light home with you after the service, you may come forward when the service concludes and light your candle with the Peace Light at the communion table. You will need to be sure that you can safely transport your candle to wherever you are going. This will likely mean you need to travel with another person so one person can mind the light while the other person drives.

WEEKLY WORSHIP ON SUNDAY

- 10:00 a.m.   Worship
- 11:00 a.m.   No Sunday School on 12/29 and 1/5
- 11:00 a.m.   Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

WORSHIP NOTES

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Pastor:</b>             | Rev. Rebecca Mihm   |
| <b>Lector:</b>             | Cindy Stants  |
| <b>Time with Children:</b> | Debra Owens   |
| <b>Director of Music:</b>  | Bonnie Champion   |
| <b>Organist:</b>           | Jean Mitrosky   |
| <b>Sound Engineer:</b>     | Josh Deitz/Jeff Kapp                                      |
| <b>Video Engineer:</b>     | Dan Willy   |
| <b>Acolytes:</b>           | Ruby Collett, Kunselman,<br>Aubrie Scovel, and Emma Willy |
| <b>Ushers in Charge:</b>   | Lee Seitz, Kim Lewis, Pam Reid, and<br>Lori Smith         |

## SILENT NIGHT

1. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.

## JOY TO THE WORLD

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come:  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing.
2. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns:  
Let us our songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.

