

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

December 24, 2020, 5:00 p.m.



INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



C.J. Briggs, Music Director

Rev. David B. Wigger, Pastor

*Bethlehem is where we live. The stable is in our town.
Christ is being born now, here, and we should pay attention.*

-Neil MacGregor

GATHERING MUSIC

CHRISTMAS GREETING

In the beginning and in the midst of darkness, God spoke.

Let there be light.

...

“O come to us, abide in us, our Lord, Emmanuel.”

Let there be light.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

CALL TO WORSHIP

(LUKE 1:26-38, 46)

Greetings favored ones! God is with us!

What kind of greeting might this be?

Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God. And now, a Son will be born to us, and of his reign, there will be no end.

How can this be?

The power of the Spirit overshadows you. The child born will be holy, and will be called the Son of God. For nothing is impossible with God.

Let our souls magnify the Lord,

and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.

Come, let us worship God.

PRELUDE

“O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL”

Depending on weather, we may dismiss you back to the parking lot.

You may choose to stay in the sanctuary if you prefer.

CAROL

“O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL”

All (who are outside) are encouraged to sing the refrain.

THE CHRIST CANDLE

We process back inside.

RESPONSE

“CLEAR OUT THE CROWDED HEART”

FIRST LESSON (RYAN MCGOVERN)

ISAIAH 9:2-7

CAROL

“ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID’S CITY”

SECOND LESSON (AMY WADSWORTH)

LUKE 1:39-45

CAROL

“O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM”

THIRD LESSON (WENDLENE LAVEY)

LUKE 2:1-7

CAROL

“AWAY IN A MANGER”

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

“LONGING FOR CHRIST”

CAROL

“THE FIRST NOEL”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING

EUCHARIST

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

...Therefore we sing with all the heavenly host:

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.

COMMUNION CAROL

“WHAT CHILD IS THIS?”

FOURTH LESSON (ROBERT PEJSA)

LUKE 2:8-15

CAROL

“RISE UP, SHEPHERD, AND FOLLOW”

Depending on weather, you may be dismissed to the parking lot.

FIFTH LESSON

JOHN 1:1-14

CAROL

“SILENT NIGHT”

CHRISTMAS BLESSING



Musical Arrangement of Carols by Robin Dinda
Pieces of the liturgy are from the Office of Theology and Worship, PCUSA
and *Feasting on the Word*, ed. Kimberly Bracken Long.

*All are encouraged to sing the refrain.
Those who feel called, are also invited to sing the verses.*

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

O Come, All Ye Faithful 133

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain

born the King of an - gels!
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 glo - ry in the high - est!
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

Silent Night, Holy Night! 122

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing
 with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

GERMAN

1 *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
 Alles schläft, einsam wacht
 nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
 Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
 schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
 schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!*

KOREAN

1 *고요한밤 거룩한밤
 어둠에 묻힌밤
 주의부모 앉아서
 감사기도 드릴때
 아기잘도 잔다
 아기잘도 잔다*

SPANISH

1 *¡Noche de paz, noche de amor!
 Todo duerme en derredor,
 entre los astros que esparcen su luz,
 bella, anunciando al niño Jesús,
 brilla la estrella de paz,
 brilla la estrella de paz.*

The tradition that this carol's tune was created for guitar accompaniment at its first singing on Christmas Eve 1818 seems reliable, though a recent find shows that the text was about two years old. But there is no question that this is now a favorite Christmas carol worldwide.