

LIGHTING OF INDIVIDUAL CANDLES

Flame from the Christ Candle will be brought to the candles of people on the center aisle. As you receive the light, please pass it to your neighbor until all have received the light, symbolizing the light that we received from Christ and carry into the world. At the end of the charge and blessing, please extinguish your candle and return candle and holder to the baskets as you leave.

***CAROL** (*please see insert*)

Silent Night

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

Pastor: Alleluia

People: Amen.

POSTLUDE

*The Seven Joys of Mary; British carol tune arr. Douglas Wagner
Brandon Reese, saxophone*

Liturgist
Candle Lighters
Communion Servers
Ushers
Director of Music
Co Pastor

Cindy Postell
Penny and George Fraley
Kurt and Donna Schuler
Kurt and Donna Schuler
Davis McKinney
Rev. Tom Dunlap

Bolded words are read by the congregation. *Indicates please stand as you are able.

Welcome: to all who worship with us this evening especially our visitors! We hope you feel at home at Trinity, and that you will join us again. We invite you to consider becoming part of our church family.

Portions of today's liturgy are from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Vol.1, 2013, Westminster John Knox Press and Advent 2022 Advent Wreath Lighting Liturgies, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, written by the Rev. Tom Moore 07/10, Pastor of Center PC, McMurray, PA.*

Trinity Presbyterian Church



www.trinitypresbyfairfield.org

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2022 10:15 AM

Worship leaders in plain type/ Congregation in bold type

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

GATHERING MUSIC

*On Christmas Night All Christians Sing; English carol
arr. Brian Buda*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING—Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

People: We light this candle in celebration, for the grace of God has appeared in the flesh.

Leader: May the light of the world, our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, guide us,

People: As we daily walk in the way of his hope, love, joy, and peace.

Leader: Praise the Lord!

People: The Lord's name be praised.

CAROL #133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

CALL TO CONFESSION

written by Rev. Tom Dunlap

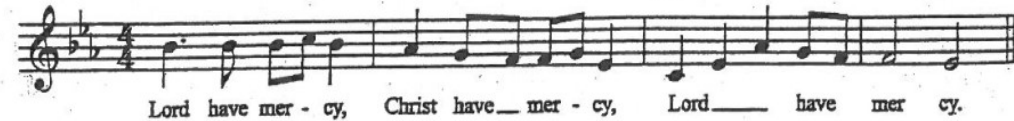
On this blessed evening as the world awaits the birth of a Savior, we come before you to open ourselves to the often darkness of our ways so that your Light may come in.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

written by Rev. Tom Dunlap

Lord, you made your first announcement of Jesus' birth to what we would consider a lowly bunch of social outcasts. And today, we look at people begging on the streets with mild disdain wondering why they haven't made more of themselves. There are 10 million people at risk of starvation in Yemen, but the world writes them off as casualties of politics. And even in our own country, we spend more energy debating corporate tax rates than we do with finding ways to help those who struggle to feed their families and pay the rent. Forgive us, O God, for our neglect and myopic visions of the world. Amen.

MINUTE OF SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION *Let us sing to the Lord...*



KYRIE—All Sing

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

written by Rev. Tom Dunlap

Yes, we have fallen short and yes our priorities have gotten off track. Yet God did not send Jesus to condemn us, but to teach us and to lead us. So let us move forward with the Christ Spirit in our hearts and give it greater expression in our daily lives. **Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Christmas by Harry Rowe Shelley
Eileen Dyer, soloist*

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING: Luke 2:1-7

Pew Bible p. 58

CAROL #121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

SECOND READING: Luke 2:8-14

Pew Bible p. 58

CAROL #145

What Child Is This

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

The Dirty Dozen

Rev. Tom Dunlap

CAROL #118 verses 1-4

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Ann Weems

**Christmas comes every time we see God in other persons.
The human and the holy meet in Bethlehem or Times Square.
For Christmas comes like a golden storm on its way to Jerusalem—
Determinedly, inevitably...**

**Even now it comes
In the face of hatred and warring—
No atrocity too terrible to stop it,
No Herod strong enough,
No hurt deep enough,
No curse shocking enough,
No disaster shattering enough—**

**For someone on earth will see the star,
Someone will hear the angel voices,
Someone will run to Bethlehem,
Someone will know peace and goodwill”
The Christ will be born!**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Because God so loved the world, God sent the Son into the world. In response to this good news of great joy, we offer songs of praise, tithes and offerings, and acts of service.

MUSICAL OFFERTORY *See Amid the Winter's Snow by John Goss arr. Brian Buda*

***DOXOLOGY** (*Refrain from Hymn # 113*)

Gloria, in excelsis deo. Gloria, in excelsis deo.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Great God, accept these gifts we offer as we wait in hope for your coming again. Use all that we have and all that we are as you bring light in every darkness, ease heavy burdens, and turn our endless warring into your endless peace. In Christ's name, we ask it. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (*please see insert*)

*The Lord's Table is open to all who profess faith in Jesus Christ.
Baptized children are invited to partake with their parents' blessing.*

COMMUNION (by Intinction)

*Please come forward as you are able when invited,
tear off a small piece of the Body of Christ (the bread),
and dip it in the Cup of Salvation.*

*Please note: We will bring the elements to you if you prefer.
Please let an usher know if this is your preference.*

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

[Clergy expressions; **Congregation response**]

THE INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER *written by Rev. Tom Dunlap*

Just as the shepherds were summoned to Bethlehem “to see this thing that has happened,” we are invited to the Table to share in the meal that many years later would conclude the ministry of the child who was born.

We come in gratitude for the gift God has given us.

Let us leave our flocks; let us leave behind us all the worries and cares we have brought with us this evening.

We are totally focused on the blessings of this event.

So let us now partake of this bread and wine knowing that it binds us into community with the entire world which groans in its bondage to sin.

We will glorify and praise God for all we have heard and seen!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *(unison)*

Empower us by your Spirit, O God, to be Christ's presence in the world even as Jesus was God-with-us. Give us the courage to speak his truth, to seek his justice, and to love with his love. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBT, DEBTORS)

#122 **Silent Night, Holy Night**

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
Heavenly 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 Thy birth.
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.