

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 #122**

Silent Night

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Pastor: Alleluia

People: Amen.

***POSTLUDE**

Christmas Waltz by Styne/Cahn arr. Tom Roed

Liturgist	Barb Pratt
Ushers	Debi Hess
Candle Lighter	George Fraley
Communion Server	Debi Hess
Choir Director	Davis McKinney
Pastor	Rev. Tom Dunlap

Bolded words are read by the congregation.

Welcome: to all who worship with us this evening, especially our visitors! If you have a joy or concern that you would like to share with the congregation, please use the yellow card in the pew pocket and place it in the offering plate. These will be shared with the congregation during our “Joys and Concerns.” Please fill out the worship registration pad found in the pew, and pass it to the person next to you. Once the form is completed the last person to receive the form places the form in the offering plate.

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 adapted from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1* © 2012 Westminster John Knox Press, and *Call to Worship, Vol. 49.1, Lectionary Aids 2015, Year C.*

Trinity Presbyterian Church



www.trinitypresbyfairfield.org
Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 2023 5:00 PM
Worship leaders in plain type/
Congregation in bold type

PRELUDE

Carol Medley arr. Mark Hayes

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES and CHRIST CANDLE--George Fraley

Do not be afraid—I bring good news of great joy!
Light shines on those who walk in darkness.
A child has been born for us, a song given to us.
Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

All Sing Refrain

Walk with Me

GLASER



INVOCATION

HYMN #136

Go Tell It on the Mountain

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our minds and hearts by the power of your Holy Spirit, that we may hear and rejoice in the gospel of our Savior’s birth, told in story and song in song this night.
Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7

HYMN #115

Away in a Manger

SECOND LESSON

Titus 2:11-14

HYMN #112

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:1, 3-7

SPECIAL MUSIC

*What Child is This?
Soloist Eileen Dyer*

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:8-16

SPECIAL MUSIC

O Holy Night by Adolphe Adam arr. Mark Hayes

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Debt & Debtors*)

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

Als Ich Bei Meinen Schafen Wacht; German carol

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

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

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

We praise you, God of steadfast love and faithfulness, for all your marvelous works, and for the great abundance with which you fill our lives. We bring these gifts to you with joy and ask that you will use them to be a source of joy and blessing for all our neighbors, near and far. **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.*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (*see insert*)

***HYMN OF PREPARATION #225** (*see insert*)

I Wonder as I Wander

Communion

Leader: Like pilgrim shepherds we have gathered tonight. Like children of royalty we have come together to celebrate the birth of true royalty.

People: Our Savior comes to us as a babe, wrapped in swaddling clothes. He lays aside his crown to be among us and share the joy and sorrow of our journey. He passes through the curtain around God's love and, holding it aside, invites us in.

Leader: Oh, the humanity of God, the divinity of God's children.

People: What child is this? What love is this that seeks to share our burdens and leads us on in kindness towards a glory that is gentle and peaceful like a meadow in spring?

Leader: O God, roll away the stone in our hearts and let our spirits soar into that realm where angels laugh, martyrs weep for joy, and God's infinite love dances among the singing throngs of those who have gone before us.

People: That we may know what has been accomplished in this child, that we may see the world as you see it, Lord. Sanctified, cleansed, and sojourning towards a healing so great we are almost afraid to hope in it.

Leader: On the night before his death, Jesus said to his disciples, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer." Now the risen Christ, in perfect joy, graciously invites us to join him at the table, to break and share the bread of life and lift him the cup of salvation.

People: O Lord, as we join at your table on this sacred eve accept us as we are, even in all our imperfections.

Leader: Jesus says, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly I heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

People: What shall we render to the Lord for all God's bounty to us? We shall lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

All: This Christmastide let our spirits so entwine that we form a wreath of joy, a circle of light from which God's precious and fragile love will shine out into the darkness of this world and into our own hearts. It is in the strong name of Jesus, who came to us as a child that we ask this. Amen.

—*Litanies for All Occasions* by Garth House, Copyright 1989, Judson Press, Valley Forge, PA.

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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.**

**Silent night, holy night,
wondrous star, lend thy light;
with angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!**

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