



NORTHEAST

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | PCA

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CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION DECEMBER 24, 2020 4:00 AND 6:00 PM

#Prelude: “*God With Us*”

Jason Ingram and Leslie Jordan

Jeremy Buzzard and Kerri Roberts; Haley Reasoner, violinist

ADORATION

##*Call to Worship:

Pastor Desch

“But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ ” Matthew 1:20–21 (ESV)

##*Opening Hymn: “*Angels We Have Heard on High*”

Hymn 132

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heav’nly song?
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 new-born King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

See within a manger laid Jesus, Lord of heav’n and earth!
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, with us sing our Savior’s birth.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

TEXT and MUSIC: Traditional French carol.

Taken from *The Hymnal for Worship and Celebration*. CCLI License #541575.

Ushers will seat you at these times.

* As the congregation stands, please feel free to remain seated as needed.

*Nicene Creed

Pastor Walter

I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds; God of God; Light of Light; Very God of Very God; Begotten not made; Being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; Who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven; And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost (Spirit) of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven; And sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick (living) and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost (Spirit); The Lord and Giver of Life; Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; Who spake by the prophets. And I believe one holy catholic* and apostolic church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the Resurrection of the dead; And the life of the world to come. Amen.

*holy catholic church: "The worldwide fellowship of believing people whose Head is Christ."

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Pastor Walter

Lighting of the CHRIST Candle (Revelation 21:1-4)

RESPONSE

*Hymn: "Joy to the World"

Hymn 125

Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns; let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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.

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.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, MUSIC: George Frederick Handel.

Taken from *The Hymnal for Worship and Celebration*. CCLI License #541575.

*Doxology

Hymn 625

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Taken from *The Hymnal for Worship and Celebration*. CCLI #541575.

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Pastor Pittman

Verse 1: Jeremy Buzzard and Kerri Roberts

Verse 2: Congregation

O, holy night! the stars are brightly shining, it is the night of the dear Savior's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining, 'til He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;
Fall on your knees, Oh, hear the angel voices!

O night divine, O night when Christ was born! O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love and His gospel is peace;
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother, and in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, let all within us praise His holy name;
Christ is the Lord, Oh, praise His name forever!

His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim! His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

TEXT: John S. Dwight, MUSIC: Adolphe Adam.

Taken from *The Hymnal for Worship and Celebration*. CCLI License #541575.

NEPC Kids Sermon Spotlight

Pastor Pittman

Anthem: "See Amid the Winter's Snow"

Edward Caswall and John Goss/arr. Dan Forrest

Choral Ensemble

Alleluia, Alleluia. See, amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below, see the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years. Hail, thou ever-blessed morn, Hail redemption's happy dawn, sing through all Jerusalem: "Christ is born in Bethlehem." Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Lo, within a manger lies He who build the lofty skies, He, who, throned in light sublime, sits amid the cherubim. Hail thou ever blessed morn, Hail redemption's happy dawn sing throughout Jerusalem, "Christ is born in Bethlehem." Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Sacred infant, all divine, what a tender love was Thine, thus to come from highest bliss, down to such a world as this. Hail thou ever blessed morn, Hail redemption's happy dawn. Sing throughout Jerusalem, "Christ is born in Bethlehem." Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

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INSTRUCTION

Scripture

Isaiah 7:13-17 (ESV)

¹³ And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷ The Lord will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria!"

Message: "Behold Immanuel!"

Pastor Desch

1. Where is God at a time like this?
2. Where was God at a time like that?
3. Where is your heart this Christmas Eve?

COMMUNION

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

***Hymn: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

Hymn 141

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend on us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel."

TEXT: Phillips Brooks, MUSIC: Lewis H. Redner.
Taken from *The Hymnal for Worship and Celebration*. CCLI #541575.

CHARGE AND BLESSING

Lighting of the Candles

***Hymn: "Silent Night! Holy Night!"**

Hymn 147

Jeremy Buzzard and Lynn Greenlee, guitarists

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.

TEXT: Joseph Mohr, MUSIC: Franz Gruber.
Taken from *The Hymnal for Worship and Celebration*. CCLI #541575.

Extinguishing of the Candles

***Benediction**

Pastor Desch

***Postlude: "Joy to the World "**

John Behnke and Anna Laura Page

Dr. Robert Jones, organist



***Are you a visitor with us this afternoon/evening? If so, WELCOME! We're happy to have you.
More information on our church can be found at nepresbyterian.org.***