

Celebration Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Christmas Eve Carol, Communion & Candlelight
Worship Service
December 24, 2018
Pre-Service Music 6:45PM Worship 7:00PM

Chiming the Hour

Lighting the Advent/Christmas Wreath The Burrows Family

Advent Wreath Hymn No. #88 (vs. 7) *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.*

Greeting Joy to the world the Lord is Come! **Merry Christmas!**

Introit *On This Day Earth Shall Ring*

Welcome and Announcements Tom Dendy, Pastor

***Responsive Call to Worship**

Light looked down and saw darkness.

“I will go there,” said Light.

Peace looked down and saw war.

“I will go there,” said Peace.

Love looked down and saw hatred.

“I will go there,” said Love.

So the Lord of Light, the Prince of Peace, the King of Love

Came down and crept in beside us.

We have come to worship the Lord and Prince and King.

***Carol No. 133** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Old Testament Scripture Reading I: Micah 5:2, 5a

Carol No. 121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Old Testament Scripture Reading II: Isaiah 40:1-11

Carol No. 129 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

Christmas Eve Love Offering for SHEPHERD'S TABLE - Conway

Offertory Instrumental

Christmas Gospel: Luke 2:1-7

Carol No. 128 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

Christmas Gospel: Luke 2:8-20

Carol No. 119 *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

Christmas Eve Meditation:

Tom Dendy

Christmas Eve Prayer of Thanksgiving: Thank you, Scandalous God, for giving yourself to the world, not in the powerful and extraordinary, but in weakness and the familiar: in a baby; in bread and wine. Thank you for offering, at journey's end, a new beginning; for setting, in the poverty of a stable, the richest jewel of your love; for revealing, in a particular place, your light for all nations. Thank you for bringing us to Bethlehem, House of Bread, where the empty are filled, and the filled are emptied; where the poor find riches, and the rich recognize their poverty; where all who kneel and hold out their hands are generously fed. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen

Invitation to Celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion Instructions: Tonight we will celebrate communion by the method of *intinction*. Please come forward a row at a time to partake by taking a portion of the bread, dipping it in the cup of grape juice, and eating it in remembrance of Christ's body broken and His blood shed for you. (*You will be handed a candle as you make your way back to your seat.*)

Words of Institution, Prayer, Sharing the Bread and Cup

Musical Offerings during Communion

Children's Chorus *Away in a Manger*

Christmas Gospel: John 1:1-5

Silent Meditation in the Darkness
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Candle Lighting Instructions: The Pastor and an Elder will light candles from the Christ candle and then light the candle of each person seated nearest the aisle on both sides of the sanctuary. The light can then be shared down each row by tipping your unlit candle to the flame of your neighbor's lit candle.

Parents please assist your children in lighting their candles.

***Closing Carol** *Silent Night, Holy Night*

***Benediction** Go forth knowing that God's Light draws you into the world to reflect his light to the world. Go in peace. Merry Christmas!

***Postlude**

Please extinguish your candles and return them to the baskets in the Narthex as you leave the sanctuary.

We Welcome YOU to this Christmas Eve Worship service and extend a warm invitation to all our guests to join us for Coffee and Fellowship at 10:15 a.m. and Worship each Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m.

**God Bless You With a
Merry Christmas and Blessed 2019
From Everyone at
Celebration Presbyterian Church
and
*Celebration Preschool***