

CHRISTMAS EVE  
DECEMBER 24, 2018  
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

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**CHRIST**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

[cpcgeorgetown.org](http://cpcgeorgetown.org)

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**prelude**

*As the music plays, please quietly prepare your heart and mind for worship, lifting your thoughts up from the cares of this world.*

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* – Ancient Chant/Hayes

*In the Bleak Mid-Winter* – Christina Rossetti/Sprunger

*The Coventry Carol* – Traditional/Martinez

*Jesus Christ, Your Manger is My Paradise* – Paul Gerhardt/Kosche

*The First Noel* – Traditional/Sprunger

*Silent Night* – Franz Gruber/Reger

*At the Cradle* – Edward Grieg

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**lighting of the christ candle**

*The Christ Candle is the fifth Advent Candle, and its color is white, representing purity and light. Christ is the sinless, spotless, pure Savior; and he is the light who has come into a dark world. Those whose Savior is Jesus Christ are washed of their sins and made whiter than snow.*

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**opening prayer**

*Leader:* Beloved in Christ, at this Christmastide let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the babe lying in a manger. Therefore let us read and mark in holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child.

## ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven Who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall:  
with the poor, and mean, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

And through all his wondrous childhood he would honor and obey,  
love and watch the lowly maiden in whose gentle arms he lay:  
Christian children all must be mild, obedient, good as he.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;  
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above,  
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

Words: Cecil F. Alexander, Music: Henry J. Gauntlett, Public Domain.

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## **first lesson**

**The Reading** | Genesis 3:8-19 (*Adam and Eve disobey God's command and disrupt the order and goodness of creation.*)

## COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,  
Dear Desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories know no end;  
By his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.  
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;  
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Words: Charles Wesley (vv. 1&4) and Mark Hunt (vv. 2&3). Music: Rowland Hugh Pritchard.  
Public Domain. CCLI #3022711.

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## second lesson

**The Reading** | Genesis 22:15-18 (*God promises that, through Abraham, all the peoples of the world will be blessed.*)

## GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN

God rest you merry gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,  
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,  
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray,  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heavenly Father, a blessed angel came;  
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:  
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

“Fear not then,” said the angel, “Let nothing you affright,  
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,  
To free all those who trust in him from Satan's power and might.”  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

Words and Music: Traditional English carol. Public Domain.

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**third lesson**

**The Reading** | Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 (*The people who walk in darkness receive the promise of the Messiah.*)

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear. \*

\* Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell thy people save, and give them victory o'er the grave. \*

Latin hymn. Translated by John Mason Neale, Music: Thomas Helmore. Public Domain.

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fourth lesson

**The Reading** | Micah 5:2-5 (*The Messiah will come from lowly Bethlehem and shepherd his flock in strength and peace.*)

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

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.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to 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.

Words: Phillips Brooks, Music: Lewis Henry Redner, Public Domain.

**The Reading** | Luke 1:26-35, 38 (*An angel appears to Mary and announces that she will bear a holy child.*)

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song

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King:  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

Words: Charles Wesley, Music: Felix Mendelssohn. Public Domain.

**The Reading** | Luke 2:1, 3-7 (*Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem, where Mary gives birth to her child.*)

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song

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste! Haste! to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail! Hail! the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him;  
The King of Kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy! Joy! for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

Words: William Chatterton Dix, Music: Greensleeves, 16th Century English melody. Public Domain.

**The Reading** | Luke 2:8-16 (*Angels appear to shepherds in the fields and announce the birth of the Messiah.*)

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song

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains. \*

\* *Chorus:*

Glo-ria in excelsis Deo.

Glo-ria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song? \*

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. \*

Words: Traditional French carol, trans.: James Chadwick. Music: French carol melody,  
arr.: Edward Shippen Barnes. Public Domain.

**The Reading** | Matthew 2:1-11 (*Magi from the East come seeking the Messiah and offer gifts to the baby Jesus.*)

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song

WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star.

\* O! star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies. \*

Words and Music. John H. Hopkins, Jr. Public Domain.

**The Reading** | John 1:1-14 (*The Word of God becomes flesh and lives among us, full of grace and truth.*)

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song

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels! \*

\* *Chorus:*

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! \*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given!  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! \*

Words and Music: John Francis Wade. Public Domain.

**“Good News of Great Joy”****December 24, 2018****Luke 2:8-14**

**Luke 2** <sup>ESV</sup> | 8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

14 “Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

*Minister:* Let us pray for the needs of the whole world;  
**All:** For peace on earth and goodwill among all his people;

*Minister:* For unity and brotherhood within the church he came to build,  
**All:** And especially in this, our own community.

*Pause to silently pray.*

*Minister:* And because this would rejoice his heart, let us remember in his name, the poor and helpless,  
**All:** The cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn,

*Minister:* The lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children;  
**All:** All those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

*Pause to silently pray.*

*Minister:* Finally, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one forevermore. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:  
**All:** Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be your name;  
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors,  
Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil,  
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen.

**John 8:12**<sub>ESV</sub> | Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

*Please rise and sing the final hymn as the candlelight is passed.*

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**\*\*song**

## SILENT 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 your birth! Jesus, Lord, at your birth!

Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing, “Alleluia” to our King;  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Words: Joseph Mohr, Music: Franz Gruber, Public Domain.

**All: Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your Incarnate Word. Grant that this light, kindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives with great joy today and throughout our days, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

*The Shepherds at the Manger* – Traditional/Franz Liszt

## WHERE TO FIND US

### where we meet (CPC worship center)

1200 W. 17th St., Georgetown, TX 78626

**parking** If you or a guest has mobility needs and requires more accessible parking, parking is available behind the church in the back lot (access via 19th St.).

### church office

3613 Williams Drive, Ste. 201  
Georgetown, TX 78628  
(512) 966.9644

[cpcgeorgetown.org](http://cpcgeorgetown.org)

Christ Presbyterian Church of Georgetown is part of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).