

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Harris Family

One: Rejoice, people of God! The Light has come into the world

All: Christ is born and the heavenly hosts sing God's praises

One: Rejoice, children of God! The Prince of Peace is among us

All: Grant to this world, O God, Your everlasting peace.

One: Rejoice, people of God! Love has been born into the world

All: May the love of Christ be shared with all people, everywhere

One: Rejoice, children of God, on this holy night

All: Let there be light, peace, love and goodwill shown to all.

*CAROL

"Silent Night"

As we sing, all are invited to pass the light of Christ.

**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, led thy light;
With the angels let us sing, "Alleluia" to our King;
Christ the Savior is born. Christ the Savior is born.**

BLESSING

*CAROL

"Joy to the World"

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come! Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing!**

**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.**

POSTLUDE

Alejandro Alumbros

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 24, 2016 * CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!

As you enter, please pick up a candle to light as we sing "Silent Night" together. All children and toddlers are encouraged to participate in the service and will need a manger piece to do so—more are available at the back of the sanctuary. If your child is nervous about coming forward during the telling of the Christmas story, we invite you to join them.

GRACE AND PEACE TO YOU AND BLESSINGS THIS HOLY NIGHT!

GATHERING WITH PRAISE

PRELUDE

Alejandro Alumbremos

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

*CAROL

“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;

*Refrain: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

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

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

*EVENING PRAYER

WELCOME

CHORAL ANTHEM

“Behold, a Tiny Baby”
By Mary Lynn Lightfoot

TELLING THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Luke 2:1-5

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Children with Mary, Joseph, donkey and cow manger figures come forward.

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 wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.

Luke 2:6-7

“Away in a Manger”

Children with Baby Jesus figures come forward.

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Luke 2:8-14

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Children with angel figures come forward.

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo; glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo.

Luke 2:15-20

“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”

Children with shepherds and sheep figures come forward.

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground, the angel of the Lord came down
And glory shone around, and glory shone around.

“Fear not,” he said, for mighty dread had seized their troubled minds
“Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind,
To you and all mankind.”

Matthew 2:1-2, 10-11

Children with the wise men figures come forward.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

*CAROL

“What Child is This?”

Children return to their seats

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?

*Refrain: This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!*

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.

REFLECTION

Rev. Gillian Weighton

OFFERING / OFFERTORY

“O Holy Night”
Mark Paffrath

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

*We invite all to share in this meal and be reassured of God’s love and
grace. Please come forward (as directed by the ushers), take a piece of
bread, dip it in the cup, and partake. Servers are available to serve
those who wish to remain seated. If you need gluten-free, take a cracker
from the basket.*