

The Presbyterian Church on Edisto Island

Sunday, December 24, 2021

5:00 & 7:00 PM



During our Advent season we have acknowledged the tension of our faith in Emmanuel; that God is with us, and yet, God's promised day – our everlasting home – is not fully realized. We share a deep longing for God to come close to us.

In the miracle of the manger, we celebrate God drawing near, and making a home on earth.

We too are Invited Home, as we share again this story of God's homecoming.

Printed words to music and prayers are to use as silent meditation during the service.

Bolded words are to use as congregational response while wearing a mask.

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

"Gathering in God's presence..."

Ring of the Hour

Words of Welcome and Announcements

5 PM Betty Bryan

7 PM Sam Plexico

Prelude

Away in a Manger

Mueller

*Call to Worship

An unmarried teenage girl was invited—

to carry Christ into this world.

An ordinary carpenter was invited—

to be a father to a child unlike any other.

The shepherds were invited—

outcast and isolated, included at the manger.

The Magi were invited—

foreigners and seekers, included at the manger.

And if she was invited, and he was invited, and they were invited—

then we can trust that we too are invited.

This story is for us.

This love is for us.

Family of faith, this is our invitation. Welcome home.

Amen.

Instrumental Hymn

Joy to the World

Antioch

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.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns;

Let us our 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.*

Candle Lighting Liturgy – Christ Candle

5 PM Vicki & Alan George
7 PM Bill Johnston & Bess Kellett

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gather us around the manger Lord, gather us home. You invite us into relationship with you, but we question our worthiness. You send us heralds of peace, but we focus instead on what is wrong in the world. You share with us your table of grace, but we wonder if there is room at the table for all. Forgive us when we fail to hear your invitation, and ask us again and again, until we are all home.

Musical Response

O Little Town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

*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 of Forgiveness

Our own eyes have seen the salvation God prepared for all peoples: a light shining forth in the darkness, an invitation into a life of faith, and a welcome home, a home among angels and shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and a home with God, who forgives us all our sins. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

*Musical Response

Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria

*Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Hearing God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

The Scripture Read

Luke 2:1-20

2 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Children's Sermon

Solo

O Holy Night

Cantique De Noel

Reflection

invited home

Rev. Ashley R. Sanders

Our Response

Call to Offering

Sharing of Tithes & Offerings

Tonight's offering benefits The Edisto Island Food Pantry. The Food Pantry currently serves roughly 70 island families with monthly deliveries of food to help support most of their dietary needs for approximately one week. The Pantry is located in and governed by The Presbyterian Church on Edisto Island, but with considerable monetary support and manpower coming from Island churches, organizations, and individuals. In partnership with The Lowcountry Food Bank, the Pantry is able to maximize monetary gifts and donations, ensuring we can provide wholesome supplemental food to all our families. In addition to our monthly non-perishable delivery, The Food Pantry offers Fresh Express, which is free produce to Island residents on the third Thursday of each month. To donate, kindly place your offering in one of the baskets as you leave the Fellowship Hall. Or you can give online by going to our website (www.pcedisto.org).

Musical Response

Christ, Be Our Light

Christ be our Light

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come.

Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Prayer of Dedication

The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table & The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

... And so we raise our voices with the saints and angels who forever sing:

Glory to God on the highest heaven. Peace and goodwill to all.

...And so we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ is born. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Words of Institution & Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion & The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Sharing of the Light of Christ

You are invited to make your way along the lighted pathway to the front of the Sanctuary. Please bring your candle or glow stick with you and we will share the light of Christ and sing *Silent Night* outside.

Safety: During the candle lighting, please be aware of your neighbor with the flame and the dripping of hot wax. It is best to hold the lighted candle upright while the unlighted candle is turned. There will be a box for depositing used candles.

*Closing Hymn

Silent Night, Holy Night

Stille Nacht

*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! Shepherd's 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 the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.*

*Benediction & Sharing of our Light on the Tree

...sending in God's name."

To celebrate Jesus, the Light of the World, you are invited to place a star on the PCEI Christmas tree on the Sanctuary porch. During this Christmas season, may our light shine brightly for Christ.

Leading Worship:

Liturgy – Betty Bryan & Family, Sam Plexico, Ross Sanders
Advent & Christ Candle Liturgy – Vicki & Alan George, Bill Johnston & Bess Kellett
Vocalist – Melanie Murray
Music Director – Sheri Melton
Pastor – Ashley Sanders

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Liturgy adapted from "Close to Home" by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org