Christmas Eve 2022 at Christ Church

Our cover art, "Trumpeter" was created by local North Canton artist Tina Meyers and we thank her for letting us use it. You can check out more of her work on Facebook @eyesplinterart.

Christ Presbyterian Church

530 West Tuscarawas Street, Canton, OH

Choral & Organ Prelude Music at 9:30 p.m.

Service of Holy Communion at 10:00 p.m.

(Broadcast live at 9:30pm on WHBC 1480 AM; *please silence all electronic devices*)

Christmas Eve Worship Service

December 24, 2022 **Nine-Thirty O'clock**

Please silence all electronic & communication devices.
**** At these moments, we invite you to stand in body or spirit.***

Organ and Choral Prelude *(beginning at 9:30pm)*

Noël X	Louis D'aquin
Up Good Christen Folk and Listen	William Greene
Wexford Carol, *Sarah Pozderac-Chenevey, alto*	Richard Lakey
Benedictus	Alec Rowley
The Lamb	John Tavener
O Holy Night, *Jean Burnquist, soprano*	
Nativity Carol	John Rutter

Lighting of the Christ Candle John 1:1-14

The Christ Candle symbolizes the peace that comes with the Advent of Jesus of Nazareth.

Call to Worship

Leader: *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;*
People: **those who lived in the land of deep darkness on them light has shined.**

***Hymn in Procession No. 133** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" ADESTE FIDELES

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
   O come; O come ye to Bethlehem!
   Come, and behold him, born the the King of angels!
   O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
   O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

2. True God from true God, Light from light eternal,
   Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
   very God, begotten, not created!
   O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
   O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

3. Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
   Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
   Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
   O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
   O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
   Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
   Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
   O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
   O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

***Prayer of Adoration**

Leader: Good and gracious God, long ago on this holy night,
in the region of Judea, in the city of Bethlehem
you gave us your Son.

People: The Lord of the universe came among us
wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

Leader: On this night, in the region of Stark, in the city of Canton,
draw us into the mystery of your love.

People: Join our voices with the heavenly host that we may sing your glory on high.
Give us a place among the shepherds,
that we may find the one for whom we have waited. Amen.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

Great God,
tell us again of the Savior's birth, so long ago, in the city of Bethlehem.
Tell us again that life can be abundant in faith and hope and love,
not because of who we are,
but because of what you have given us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Response to Confession "O Holy Child 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.

***Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,
because he will save his people from their sins."

People: This night all creation sings a new song. All is made new.
Christ is born. All is well.

Leader: Friends, believe the good news. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Unison: Praise be to God, who sends the Son. Alleluia, Alleluia!

***Gloria** "Come to Bethlehem and See" GLORIA

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

The Word

Prayer for Illumination

Hebrew Reading *The Righteous Reign of the Coming King* Isaiah 9:2-7

Leader: The Word of the Lord. Pew Bible page 555

People: Thanks be to God. Large Print Pew Bible page 780-781

Carol "Sir Christèmas" William Mathias

Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell.
Who is there that singeth so, nowell?
I am here, Sir Christèmas. Welcome, my lord Sir Christèmas!
Welcome to all, both more and less, come near.

Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell.
Dieu vous garde, beaux sieurs,
(God bless you at this beautiful time,)
Tidings I you bring: A maid hath borne a child full young,
Which causeth you to sing:
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell.

Christ is now born of a pure maid,
In an ox-stall he is laid,
Wherefore sing we at a brayde:
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell.

Buvez bien, buvez bien par toute la compagnie.
(Drink well all the company.)
Make good cheer and be right merry,
And sing with us now joyfully:
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell!

Gospel Reading *The Birth of Jesus Christ* Luke 2:1-14

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord. Pew Bible pages 832-833
People: Thanks be to God. Large Print Pew Bible page 71

***Hymn No. 119** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" MENDELSSOHN

1. Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the new-born king
   Peace on earth and mercy mild God and sinners reconciled"
   Joyful all ye nations rise join the triumph of the skies
   With angelic host proclaim "Christ is born in Bethlehem"
   Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the new-born king."

2. 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 in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emanuel.
   Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
   Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
   Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
   born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
   Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the new-born king."

Sermon "Peace" Rev. David L. de Vries

"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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.' "

Our Response to The Word

***Affirmation of Faith** *(unison)* Excerpt from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

We trust in Jesus Christ,
fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Eucharist *(Remaining Standing)*

***Invitation to the Lord's Table**

***The Great Thanksgiving**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is right, Creator and Ruler of the Universe, to give you thanks and praise.
Beginning with Abraham, you formed a people as your own and made covenant to be their God.

People: When we were slaves in Egypt, you heard our cries,
sending Moses to lead us into freedom.

Leader: You parted the waters of the sea, leading Israel safely through on dry ground.

People: Though you gave us the promised land and made of us a great nation,
we continued to turn from your ways and betray your commands.

Leader: Yet, in love and enduring mercy, you continued to call us back to you through the words of the prophets. We now call out to you, forever praising your steadfast love and glory:

***Sanctus** "Holy, Holy, Holy" Hymn No. 562

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

(be seated)

Leader: You are holy, O God of glory, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. He lived among us, teaching and healing, gathering the outcast and the sinner, welcoming everyone into the way of abundant life.

People: By serving, he taught us how to serve. By loving us fully, he gave the example of how we are to love one another. Even on the night of his handed over, he loved his own to the end.

Leader: We remember that on the night he was betrayed, having gathered his friends at the table, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to this disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

And again, after supper, he took the cup and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me." Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we take this bread and this cup, gifts from the earth, and celebrate with thanksgiving the saving love of Jesus Christ. Accept, we pray, this offering of thanksgiving, as we proclaim the one crucified and risen. Great is the mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and cup, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be for us the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

People: *By your Spirit, bind us in love to the church of every time and place.*

Leader: Loving one another, may we bear witness that we are disciples of Christ and serve others as he served us. With our whole bodies—head, hands, feet—we give ourselves in humility and gratitude as we await the day when we will share this feast at your table in glory.

People: Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. Amen.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Communion Music *(sung by the choir)*

"In the Bleak Mid-winter" — Harold Darke

Cathy Dillon, soprano; Michael Wallace, tenor

Please see Hymn No. 144 for the text of this Christina Rossetti poem.

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming — Johannes Brahms

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer *(unison)*

**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.**

Invitation to the Offertory

Offertory Anthem "Sing, Angels, Kings and Folk" Ben Allaway

What did the angels see when they looked down upon this ordinary town?
What could a humble village have in store, with heavenly legions winging o'er?
What did the star reveal in the night? A woman in her plight,
A husband searching for an open door.
What did the oxen hear that bade them low?
It wasn't time to plough or tow.
Who were these strangers huddling from the cold,
A mother young, the father old?
What simple comfort could they hope to find to ease her in her time,
A manger's warmth, a sleeping lamb to hold.

What glorious voices woke the shepherds then in joys cascading 'cross the heaven?
What message brought them running to the town to join the welcome gathering 'round?
"Sing alleluia to this King newborn to save the meek and worn,
Both lamb and shepherd to the lost, the found."
How the angels still sing the song 'cross the world both wide and long,
The star-anointed path is bright ahead for those who seek the manger bed.
Sing, angels, kings, and folk from town and hill your alleluias still,
Believe, and let the Spirit song be fed. Allelu, alleluia!

***Presentation** *(standing)*

Hymn No. 145 *(stanza 3 — sung by all)* GREENSLEEVES

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.
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

Prayer of Dedication

Sending

(Ushers light candles)

***Hymn No. 124** *(Sung by choir)* "Still, Still, Still"

***Hymn No. 122** "Silent Night" STILLE NACHT

1. 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.
2. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
   Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;
   Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born."
3. 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.

***Christmas Eve Prayer** *(unison)*

Great God, as you came at night when all was still,
so enter our lives this night.
Illumine our paths with the light of Christ's presence,
that we may clearly see the way before us, the truth to speak
and the life to live for him, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Please extinguish candles)

***Hymn in Procession No. 134** "Joy to the World" ANTIOCH

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.

***Benediction**

***Organ Voluntary** "In Dulci Jubilo" J. S. Bach
"Sussex Carol" Robert Lind

The Cathedral Hour this Christmas Eve is given in joy and celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ our Savior, Come Let Us Adore Him!

A blessed and joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year to all and to your loved ones.

Candle Safety

In the interest of fire safety, we are asking Christmas Eve participants to observe the following precautions:

1. Drip guards provided must stay on each candle.
2. Candles must be disposed of in the containers provided at each exit.

The use of candles is a very meaningful part of our Christmas Eve Service. Your cooperation in making it safe will help us continue this tradition. The light will be passed to the congregation by the ushers during the Candle Lighting ceremony. To prevent dripping of melted wax, unlighted candles should be tipped into the lighted candle to accept the flame. Please keep ALL lit candles in an upright position, trying not to tip them. When extinguishing the flame, please cup your hand to the side of the flame and lightly blow out the candle.

From Pastor Dave

In this very busy time of year, some people manage to find even more time to dedicate to the ministry of Christ Presbyterian Church. The Worship Ministry and the Food, Clothing, & Prayer Ministry are called to special effort in this season. The choir and the music staff dedicate hours of practice time to perfect our worship and praise. The Deacons Board reaches out in additional ways to meet needs of our homebound. The CPC office staff and custodians manage a work load increase that would frustrate the best at their craft, and they do it with grace and excellence. Even the children go all out to present to everyone "good news of great joy for all the peoples . . .".

To everyone who has worked to make this Advent/Christmas season so extraordinarily special . . . thank you. You are living examples of Christ at work in our midst.
May the Lord bless you and keep you.

Sunday, January 8—following 10:30am service

We will be taking down the Christmas decorations and need several people to help take down the trees, wreaths, garland, and bows. The more helpers we have, the faster the task is completed. A simple meal will be provided. Please sign up in Cloister Hall or online if you can help.

Holiday Office/Building Hours

In observance of the
Christmas and New Year Holiday,
the Church office and Building will be closed as follows:

Monday, December 26—Closed All Day

Thursday, December 29 – Open 8-11am

Friday, December 30—Closed All Day

Monday, January 2—Closed All Day

2023 Offering Envelopes

If you requested envelopes, you will find them in alphabetical order on the table in Cloister Hall. If you do not find envelopes with your name, and would like to receive them, please call the church office or print your name on the pad found on the table. If you are not able to pick up your envelopes, please call the church office, and we will gladly mail them out to you.

2022 Charitable Contribution Deduction:

Please remember that all cash donations and/or stock transfers must be delivered to the Church Financial Office by December 31, 2022, in order to claim them as a charitable contribution deduction on your 2022 tax returns. Checks placed in the Church offering on the first Sunday in 2023 *will not qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in 2022*, even if the check is predated to 2022 or was actually written in 2022.

When contributing stock, please send a letter of direction and intent to Merrill Lynch and also a copy to myself in the church office.

Thank you,
Diane Nave

Please Note:

December 25 & January 1
Combined Worship at
10:30 am
No 8:30 am Worship
& No Sunday School for
Children or Adults

Elders of Christ Presbyterian Church

Jennifer Anderson
Charles Ash
Becky Banfield
David Hudson
Nancy Okonak
Bert Smith
Byrdie Stocker
Adam Wiggins

Deacons of Christ Christ Presbyterian Church

Mary Ann Beck
Debbie D'Antonio
Mary Jane Ebie
Terry Everett
Mike Gravilla
Nick Grinder
Kari Hershberger
Deanna Maze
Susan Oliver
Millie Snyder

Christ Presbyterian Church Staff

Ministers: The People of Christ Church
Senior Pastor: Rev. David de Vries
Associate Pastor: Rev. Michael Wallace
Director of Music & Organist: Heather Cooper
Director of Chancel Choir: Britt Cooper
Director of Children's and Family Ministries: Jennifer George
Director of Youth Ministries: Bonnie Wiggins
Pastor and Director of Camp Wakonda: Rev. Benjamin George
Camp Maintenance: Brian Husted
Business Administrator/Assistant Treasurer: Diane Nave
Director of Communications, Media, and Technology: Brian Ohler
Custodian: Kurt A. Gottschick

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HEARING LOOP INSTALLED
Switch hearing aid to T-coil