# Christmas Eve Family Service

December 24, 2023 Christ Presbyterian Church ✠ Canton, Ohio four o'clock in the afternoon

**at these moments, we invite you to stand in body or spirit*

*Please silence all electronic devices prior to the worship service*

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### Preparation for Worship

Welcome! We rejoice that you are here to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! We invite you to prepare young children by telling them the responses to our liturgy as well as alerting them to the carols. All should respond (with great enthusiasm!) where the print is **bold.**

**The First Gift** "Open Your Eyes" Rev. Benjamin George

**Voluntary** "What Star Is This?" Jason Krug
*Christ Church Ringers*

**God Calls Us to Worship**

Leader: Tonight, we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ,
**People: The One whose life reveals God's deep and lasting love for all.**
Leader: Because Christ has been born in the world,
**People: people who walked in darkness now live in great light.** *Isa. 9:2*
Leader: Because Christ has been born in the world,
**People: the power to oppress and kill will not stand.** *Isa. 9:4–5*
Leader: Because Christ has been born in the world, we respond in wonder:
**People: with the angels, we sing glory to God;** *Luke 2:14*
Leader: with the shepherds, we share the good news; *Luke 2:15–18*
**People: with Mary, we ponder the words of this night,** *Luke 2:19*
Leader: and the Word that has come into the world: Immanuel.
**People: O, come let us worship God!**

***Carol: Hymn #133** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" Adeste Fideles

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!
*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!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest! *O come, let us adore Him…*

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…*

**Lighting of the Christ Candle** Giannis, Alastor, Moriah, and John Michael Roberts

**Response to the Lighting of the Christ Candle** 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!

**Prayer for Illumination—Turn toward Scripture**

**The Second Gift** "Open Your Ears" Kate George

**Hebrew Reading** *"The Righteous Reign of the Coming King"* Isaiah 9:2–7
Leader: The Word of the Lord Pew Bible p. 555
**People: Thanks be to God** Large Print Bible pp. 780–81

**Instrumental Music** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Sondra Tucker
*Christ Church Ringers*

**Gospel Reading** *"The Birth of Jesus"* Luke 2:1–14
Leader: The Gospel of the Lord Pew Bible pp. 832–33
**People: Thanks be to God** Large Print Bible p. 71

***Carol: Hymn #132** "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" In Dulci Jubilo

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;'
animals before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forever more.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

*Children are now invited to come forward to listen to the message*

**The Third Gift** "Open God's Gift" Rev. Benjamin George

***Carol: Hymn #146** "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child" Tempus Adest Floridum

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
there he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.

Angels sang about his birth; wise men sought and found him
heaven's star shone brightly forth, glory all around him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing;
all the plains were lit that night; all the hills were ringing.

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
he is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger.
Son of God, of humble birth, beautiful the story;
praise his name in all the earth; hail the King of glory!

**The Fourth Gift** "Open Your Heart" Kate George

**A Christmas Prayer** Rev. Benjamin George

Leader: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia!
**People: Shout to the Lord, all the earth. Alleluia!**
Leader: O Christ, splendor of God's eternal glory, the mighty Word, sustaining the universe:
Renew our lives by your presence.
**People: Shout to the Lord, all the earth. Alleluia!**
Leader: O Christ, born into the world in the fullness of time for the liberation of all creation:
Release all into your promised freedom.
**People: Shout to the Lord, all the earth. Alleluia!**
Leader: O Christ, begotten of the Father before all time, born in a stable in Bethlehem:
May your church be a sign of hope and joy.
**People: Shout to the Lord, all the earth. Alleluia!**

**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.**

**Invitation to Give**

**Offertory Anthem** "I Saw Three Ships" arr. Craig Curry
*Children's Choir*

I saw three ships come sailing in on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
I saw three ships come sailing in on Christmas Day in the morning!
And what was in those ships all three…
Our Savior, Christ, and his lady…
Pray, wither sailed those ships all three…
Oh, they sailed into Bethlehem…
And all the bells on earth shall ring, and all the angels in heav'n shall sing,
And all the souls on earth shall sing…
Then let us all rejoice again…

***Presentation Hymn** 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 (*in unison*)**

**What can I give him, poor as I am?**
**If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.**
**If I were a wise man, I would do my part;**
**But what I can, I give Him: give my heart. Amen.**

**The Fifth Gift** "Open Your Mouth" Kate George

***Congregational Carols** (we now invite you to light your candles)

**Hymn #136** "Go Tell It On the Mountain" GO TELL IT

*Go, tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere;*
*Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Go, tell it on the mountain…*

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! Above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth. *Go, tell it on the mountain…*

Down in a lowly manger The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. *Go, tell it on the mountain…*

**Hymn #122** "Silent 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! 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.

**Hymn #134** "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.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love.

***Benediction**

***Organ Voluntary** "Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella" Keith Chapman

*The 10:00 PM Christmas Eve Service will be broadcast live on YouTube and WHBC 1480AM beginning at 9:30pm with Special Music.*

**Liturgist:** Kathy Schlabach

**Elders of Christ Presbyterian Church**
Jennifer Anderson
Charles Ash
Becky Banfield
Jennie George
David Hudson
Richard Milligan
Nancy Okonak
Adam Wiggins
Kristi Wood

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Director of Music & Organist: Heather Cooper
Director of Chancel Choir: Dr. Britt Cooper
Director of Family and Children's Ministries: Kate George
Director of Youth Ministry: Bonnie Wiggins
Pastor and Director of Camp Wakonda: Rev. Benjamin George
Assistant Director of Camp Wakonda: Zack White
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