Christmas Eve Family Service

Christ Presbyterian Church ✠ Canton, Ohio

December 24, 2024 — 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. Children have several special items in their activity bags. Please encourage them to wave their feathers during all music and to speak any responses through their paper megaphone.
*All should respond (with great enthusiasm!) where the print is **bold.***

Voluntary "Angels from the Realms of Glory" Sandra Eithun

"Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella" Ron Mallory
Christ Church Ringers

God Calls Us to Worship

Leader: Tonight, we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ,
People: O come, let us adore him!
Leader: Because Christ has been born in the world, we respond in wonder:
People: O come, let us adore him!
Leader: with the shepherds, we share the good news; *Luke 2:15–18*
People: O come, let us adore him!
Leader: and the Word that has come into the world: Emmanuel.
People: O come, let us adore him!

***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 Hannah, Matthew, and Judith Miller

Response to the Lighting of the Christ Candle Sussex Carol

All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night;
All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God in highest heaven; and peace on earth, good will to all!"

Poem for Christmas Eve "Into the Darkest Hour" Madeleine L'Engle

It was a time like this,
War & tumult of war,
a horror in the air.
Hungry yawned the abyss—
and yet there came a star
and the child most wonderfully there.

It was a time like this
of fear & lust for power,
license & greed and blight—
and yet the Prince of bliss
came into the darkest hour
in quiet & silent night.

And in a time like this
how celebrate his birth
when all things fall apart?
Ah! wonderful it is
with no room on the earth
the stable is our heart.

Anthem "All on a Silent Night" Becki Slagle Mayo
Children's Choir

On a silent, holy night, a bright, shining star will lend heaven's light.
Voices of angels joyfully sing a sweet alleluia to the King;
All on this silent, holy night, All on this silent night.
Silent night, holy night…

Prayer for Illumination—Turn toward Scripture

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

***Anthem** "Away in a Manger" arr. Jason W. Krug
Youth Resound

Epistle Reading *"Teach Sound Doctrine"* Titus 2:11–14
Leader: The Word of the Lord Pew Bible p. 969
People: Thanks be to God Large Print Bible p. 262

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

Children's Sermon Rev. Benjamin George

A Christmas Prayer
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 "In the Bleak Midwinter" arr. Cathy Marker
Christ Church Ringers

***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.

***Congregational Carols** ✻ we now invite you to light your candles ✻
with Youth Resound Quartet

Hymn 147 "The First Nowell" The First Nowell

The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the king of Israel!

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the king of Israel!

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** "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" David Willcocks

The 10:00 PM Christmas Eve Service will be broadcast on YouTube beginning at 9:30 PM with the music prelude.

Liturgist: Ava Skolnik

Elders of Christ Presbyterian Church
Jennifer Anderson
Charles Ash
Becky Banfield
Elisa Case
David Hudson
Brian Leggett
Richard Milligan
Adam Wiggins
Kristi Wood

Christ Presbyterian Church
Ministers: The People of Christ Church
Co-Pastors: Rev. Benjamin George & Rev. Michael Wallace
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Director of Chancel Choir: Dr. Britt Cooper
Director of Youth Ministry: Bonnie Wiggins
Director of Camp Wakonda: Zack White
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Youth Music Director: Hannah Miller
Head Custodian: Kurt A. Gottschick
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Prayers adapted from *Feasting on the Word* and *The Book of Common Worship*

HEARING LOOP INSTALLED
Switch hearing aid to T-coil