Christmas Eve
Worship Service

Refugees: The Holy Family
Kelly Latimore

Wednesday
December 24, 2025
8:30 PM

CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Christmas Eve Worship Service

December 24, 2025 Christ Presbyterian Church ✠ Canton, Ohio Eight thirty in the evening

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

Please silence all electronic devices prior to the worship service

Organ and Choral Prelude

Variations on Adeste Fidelis — Marcel Dupré

"The Lamb" — John Tavener

Little Lamb, who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life and bid thee feed by the stream and o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight, softest clothing, woolly, bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice, making all the vales rejoice?
Little Lamb, I'll tell thee, Little Lamb, I'll tell thee:
He is called by thy name, for he calls himself a Lamb.
He is meek, and he is mild; he became a little child.
I a child and thou a lamb, we are called by his name.
Little Lamb, God bless thee! Little Lamb, God bless thee!

"Sing Nowell, Sing Gloria" — Olaf Christiansen

Could it have been in the month of May, sing nowell, sing gloria!
that Christ was born? O happy day! Sing in excelsis gloria!
For shepherds in the fields so bright did watch their flocks by day and night
when angel hosts in rapture-light sang in excelsis gloria!
Peace on earth! Goodwill to all! Sing in excelsis gloria!
They shone, those stars of the eastern skies! Sing Nowell, sing gloria!
But could not shine as Mary's eyes! Sing in excelsis gloria!
And all the songs of angels fair were not as rare as the quiet prayer,
the prayer of joy that flooded Mary there! Sing in excelsis gloria!
All the gifts that the wise men brought, sing nowell, sing gloria!
by fortune won, or wisdom wrought, sing in excelsis gloria!
did pale before him, ev'ry one, as pale the stars before the sun!
For God gave us his matchless son! Sing in excelsis gloria!
Peace on earth! Goodwill to all! Sing in excelsis gloria!

"The Virgin's Slumber Song" — Max Reger

Jean Couchie Burnquist, *soprano*

Amid the roses Mary sits and rocks her Jesus-child,
while amid the treetops sighs the breeze so warm and mild.
And soft and sweetly sings a bird upon the bough: "Ah, baby, dear one, slumber now!"
Happy is Thy laughter, holy is Thy silent rest,
Lay Thy head in slumber, fondly on Thy Mother's breast!
Ah, baby, dear one, slumber now!

"Jesus Christ the Apple Tree" — Elizabeth Poston

The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green:
the trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ the apple tree.
His beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know but ne'er can tell
the glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree.
I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest a while:
under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ the apple tree.
This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive;
which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

"Ding Dong Merrily on High" Gerald Near

Ding dong! merrily on high in heaven the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! Verily the sky is riv'n with angels singing. Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!
E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen,
and io, io, io by priest and people sungen. Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!
Pray you dutifully prime your Matin chime, ye ringers;
may you beautifully rime your Evetime song, ye singers. Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!

Welcome *and* Lighting of the Christ Candle

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

Call to Worship

Leader: Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy.
People: To us is born this day in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.
Leader: This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.
People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!
Leader: Let us go now to Bethlehem.

***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!

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…

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…

***Prayer of Adoration (*in unison*)**

Living God, on this holy night we gather
to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory;
to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work;
to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise;
to sit with Mary, cradling your love.
May the good news of this night inspire us to tell the world of our great joy:
for to us is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.
Glory and praise to you forever! Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Jesus, you are God's holy child, born of Mary:
People: Lord, have mercy.
Leader: Jesus, in you all the fullness of God is pleased to dwell.
People: Christ, have mercy.
Leader: Jesus, you are the Word made flesh, full of grace and truth.
People: Lord, have mercy.

Response "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: Hear this good news of great joy: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
People: Thanks be to God!
Leader: Glory to God in the highest,
People: and peace to God's people on earth.

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

The Word

Prayer for Illumination

Loving God, by the gift of your Spirit,
teach us, like Mary, to treasure your words and ponder them in our hearts;
through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh. **Amen**.

Hebrew Reading *"Imitating Christ's Humility"* Philippians 2:5–11

Leader: The Word of the Lord Pew Bible p. 954
People: Thanks be to God Large Print Bible pp. 240–41

Carol "Sussex Carol" Elaine Hagenberg

On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring;
news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.
Then why should men on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad;
when from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty.
When sin departs before his grace then life and health come in its place;
angels and men with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King.
All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night,
"Glory to God in highest heav'n, now and forevermore," Amen!

Gospel Reading *"The Escape to Egypt"* Matthew 2:13–15, 19–23

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord Pew Bible p. 784
People: Thanks be to God Large Print Bible pp. 2–3

***Hymn 119** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!" Mendelssohn

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."

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the new-born king."

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 man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the new-born king."

Sermon "The First Border Crossings" Rev. Michael Wallace

Our Response to the Word

***Affirmation of Faith (*in unison*)** The Nicene Creed, p. 34

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,
Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

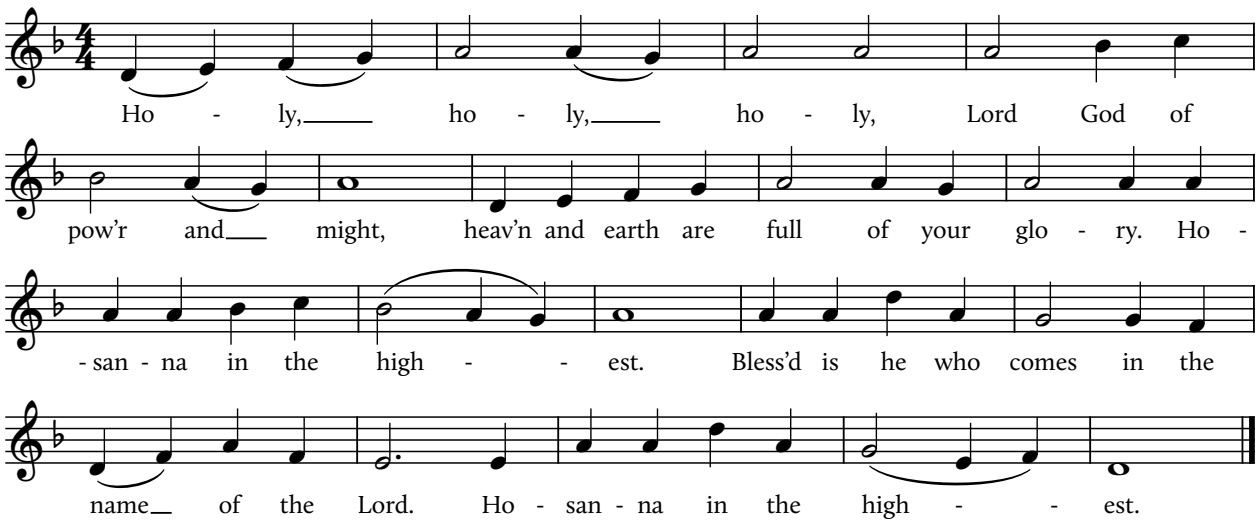
The Eucharist

***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: Almighty God, you shape your very life to create and restore and enjoy us forever…
…singing the hymn of your unending praise:

***Sanctus** PICARDY



please be seated

Leader: God of new birth, as you laid your Son in Mary's arms…
…Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Leader: Great is the mystery of faith.
People: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Leader: God who exalts the humble and humbles the exalted…
…in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, now and forever.
People: Amen.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Communion Music

"What Is This Lovely Fragrance" Healey Willan

What is this lovely fragrance wafting like to the scents of flow'rs in spring!
Shepherds, O tell us, whence such beauty, hear you not heav'nly caroling?
What is this light so fair, so tender breaking upon our wond'ring eyes?
Never the Morning Star so radiant followed his course o'er eastern skies.
Shepherds, O haste with eager footsteps, seek the Saviour, born today.
Low at His feet we lay our treasure, heart's adoration, love for aye.

In Dulci Jubilo Franz Liszt

In Dulci Jubilo Marcel Dupré

Prayers of the People *followed by* The Lord's Prayer (*in 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 "Cradle Hymn" Arnesen

Hush my dear, lie still and slumber, holy angels guard thy bed,
Heavenly blessings without number gently falling on thy head.
See the kindly shepherds round him, telling wonders from the sky!
When they sought Him, there they found Him, with His Virgin Mother by.
See the lovely babe a-dressing; lovely infant, how He smiled.
When He wept, the mother's blessing soothed and hushed the holy child.
May'st thou live to know and fear Him, trust and love Him all thy days;
then go dwell forever near Him, see His face and sing His praise!

***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*)**

We give you thanks, Holy One,
for the world of wonder you have made—forest and field, sea and sky,
and for the gift of grace that you have given—a little child, lying in a manger.
Receive these gifts of tenderness and love, of gratitude and praise, and use them for your glory;
in the name of Jesus Christ, the child of Bethlehem, we pray. Amen.

Sending

(*ushers light candles*)

***Hymn 124** "Still, Still, Still" Still, Still, Still

sung by the choir

***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! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour 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.

***Christmas Eve Prayer (*in 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 your candles

***Hymn 134** "Joy to the World" ANTIOCH

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.

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.

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.

***Benediction**

Organ Voluntary In Dulci Jubilo J.S. Bach

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.

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!

Elders
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. Michael Wallace & Rev. Benjamin George
Director of Music & Organist: Heather Cooper
Director of Chancel Choir: Dr. Britt Cooper
Director of Children's and Family Ministries: Hannah Miller
Director of Youth Ministry: Bonnie Wiggins
Director of Camp Wakonda: Zack White
Finance Administrator/Assistant Treasurer: Diane Nave
Business Administrator: Carl Brand
Music Associate & Managing Editor: Dr. Sarah PC
Head Custodian: Kurt A. Gottschick
Custodian: Chuck Troescher

Deacons
Geoffrey Darling
Becky Fort
Charity Gingerich
Debbie Jacob
Gail & Eric Mueller
Lorraine Murphy
Michael Ophardt
Pam Ray
Ava Skolnik
Judy Smith
Aaron Speakman

HEARING LOOP INSTALLED
Switch hearing aid to T-coil

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Prayers adapted from Feasting on the Word and The Book of Common Worship

The 2025 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS that adorn our church chancel are given in honor and glory of the birth of Christ by...

Emil & Kris Alecusan In Memory of Martha Schoonover.

In Memory of Anthony Angeli from **His Parents & Brothers**

Richard & Mary Angeli In Memory of our Mothers.

In honor of sons & daughters, grandsons & daughters, & great-grandsons & daughters from **Mom-Gramma-YaYa.**

Mary Ann Beck In Honor of our Christ Presbyterian Church.

Roman & Joanne Bennett In Memory of Carol Vaughn.

Dr. & Mrs. Kent Berg In memory of our parents.

Don Bowers In memory of Carole Bowers.

Chris & Carol Burt In Memory of Jane & John Burt & Dorothy & Joe Rice

Geoffrey & Rose Darling to the Glory of God.

Dianne Diana In Memory of Forest Camp Family, AJ Diana Family, Charles (Gabby) Loop Family & Nelda Diana.

Heather Dominik In Memory of my father, Erich Dominik.

Kai & Angela Dominik In Memory of our father, Erich Dominik.

In Memory of my beloved Erich by **Karen**.

In Memory of Oma & Opa Dominik from **Karen, Heather, Kai & Angela.**

Karen, Heather, Kai & Angela Dominik Our Parents & grandparents, Frank & Lucille Ronk.

Judy Douglass In Memory of our Parents, Adrian & Grace Douglass & Heather & William Nicholson, & son, Kenneth Douglass.

Judy Douglass In Honor of our Children, Andy & Debbie Roth & Grandchildren, Meghan & Patrick Douglass, Jillian & Luis Reyna, & Araceli & Selena Reyna.

In Memory of Al & Wanda Frease

Roger Gray In memory of my wife, Marsha, & my parents Herb & Janice Gray

Rev. Wendy L. Bausman Gray In memory of my parents, George & Gladys Bausman.

Rev Wendy L. Bausman Gray In honor of my daughter, Amanda Houdeschell, as she prepares to finish law school in May.

Robert Hecht In Memory of Margret, Cletus & William Hecht.

Robert Hecht In Honor of Family & Friends around the world.

Robert Hecht In Memory of Cynthia Bartchy Hecht.

Robert Hecht In Memory of Dorothy, Patricia & Jacques Bartchy & William Blair.

Robert Hecht In Memory of Margaret & William Jenkins & Gwendolyn & Pryor Enke.

Wendy Lichetenwalter In Memory of Glenn E. Lichtenwalter.

Fred & Nancy Linxweiler In honor of our many blessings.

Ruthanne Lungociu In memory of my brothers, Donald & Michael Carlson.

Cyndy Lucas In Memory of Steve Lucas.

Cyndy Lucas In Memory of Jeff. Mike, & Ray Lucas.

Cyndy Lucas In Memory of Ed & Vivian Griffin & Linda & Harry Everhard.

Cyndy Lucas In Memory of Leonard & Kay Wallace.

Joyce Mason In Memory of Robert W. Lee, Sr.

Joyce Mason In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Charles F. Mason.

Joyce Mason In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas McCain.

Terry & Gail Moore In Memory of Reich & Betty Watterson, Reich & Virginia Watterson, Forrest & Beverly Moore and Calvin & Edith Moore.

Greg & Karen Moore In Memory of daughter, Katherine Geigel.

Dan & Pam Moretta In Honor of our office staff & Pastoral staff.

Mike & Jess Moretta

Linda & Jerry Norton In Memory of our Parents, Jean & Wilbert Montie & Mary Kent & Jerry Norton.

Linda & Jerry Norton In Honor of our Daughter, Katie Norton.

Ray & Sue Oliver In memory of our Parents.

In Honor of the Bell Choir

Joe & Carol Orin In Loving memory of Mr & Mrs C.A. Orin & Mr & Mrs Lester Martin.

Joe & Carol Orin In Loving memory of Lew Gibbs.

Joe & Carol Orin In Loving Memory of Bill Blair.

The Clark & Carol Rechkemmer Families In Memory of Ross & Virginia Dice.

The Clark & Carol Rechkemmer Families In Memory of Jerry Dice.

The Clark & Carol Rechkemmer Families In Memory of Bob & Shirley Rechkemmer.

The Clark & Carol Rechkemmer Families In Memory of Craig Rechkemmer.

The Clark & Carol Rechkemmer Families In Memory of Ellie Rechkemmer.

In Memory of Myrtle Watterson & Terry Watterson Jr. – you are dearly missed from **John, Patty, Joni & Kati**.

Andy & Debbie Roth

Darlene Rownd In Memory of Wilson Rownd

In memory of Wilson & Joan Rownd by **Jeanette**

The Schorten Family In Memory of Walter, Sara, & Daryl Schorsten.

Peg Stewart In Memory of Lillian Lopez.

Peg Stewart In Memory of John Stewart.

Don & Dorothy Unger In Memory of Harley & Orpha Sponseller, Donald & Vaidna Unger, & Donald Sponseller.

In Memory of Stan from **Kristi & Donna.**

In Memory of Kenneth & Joyce Wulff from **Scott, Lisa, Anne, Joe, Lori & Karen.**

If you have purchased poinsettias, please pick them up after the postlude.

"Refugee" Malcolm Guite
from *Sounding the Seasons*

We think of him as safe beneath the steeple,
Or cosy in a crib beside the font,

But he is with a million displaced people

On the long
road
of weariness
and
want.

For even as we sing our final carol
His family is up and on that road,
Fleeing the ***wrath*** of someone else's quarrel,
Glancing behind and shouldering their load.

Whilst Herod ***rages*** still from his dark tower,
Christ clings to Mary, fingers tightly curled,
The lambs are ***slaughtered*** by the men of power,
And death squads spread their ***curse*** across the world.

But every Herod ***dies***, and comes alone
To stand before the Lamb upon the throne.