Christmas Eve Family Service

Christ Presbyterian Church ✠ Canton, Ohio

December 24, 2025 — Three 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.** Activity bags are available near the pulpit-side entrance for both readers and non-readers.*

Voluntary "Prepare the Way, O Zion" Michael Mazzatenta
Youth Resound 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

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!"

Anthem "Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow" African-American Spiritual,
Children's Choir arr. Mark Hahn

There's a star in the East on Christmas morn, Rise up, shepherd and follow.
It will lead to the place where the Christ was born, Rise up, shepherd and follow.
If you take good heed to the angel's words, Rise up, shepherd and follow.
You'll forget your flocks, you'll forget your herds, Rise up, shepherd and follow.
Leave your ewes and leave your lambs, Rise up, shepherd and follow.
Leave your sheep and leave your rams, Rise up, shepherd and follow.

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 *"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

Epistle Reading *"God Has Brought Salvation to All"* 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

Christmas Drama "Three Gospels, One Manger:
The Nativity Story Is Easy. Getting the Writers to Agree? That's a Miracle"

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 Music "Fum, Fum, Fum" arr. Valerie W. Stephenson
Youth Resound

***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.

we now invite you to light your candles

***Congregational Carols**

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** Toccata on "Angels We Have Heard on High" Richard Elliott

The 8:30 PM Christmas Eve Service will be broadcast on YouTube.

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. Benjamin George &
Rev. Michael Wallace
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
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Becky Fort
Charity Gingerich
Debbie Jacob
Gail & Eric Mueller
Lorraine Murphy
Michael Ophardt
Pam Ray
Ava Skolnik
Judy Smith
Aaron Speakman

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OneLicense (#A728991) or is from *Glory to God Hymnal*.
Prayers adapted from *Feasting on the Word*
and *The Book of Common Worship*

HEARING LOOP INSTALLED
Switch hearing aid to T-coil

The 2025 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS that adorn our church chancel are given in honor & 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.**