

CHRISTMAS EVE

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE



THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

December 24, 2023

7:30 pm

*As you are able, please rise in body or spirit
Bold indicates congregational response

PRELUDE *Carols*

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME

SPECIAL MUSIC *Alex and Marshall Chaney*
"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

CALL TO WORSHIP

*Do not be afraid; for see—
I am bringing you good news of great joy.*

**To us is born this day in the city of David
a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.**

*This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped
snugly in cloths and lying in a manger.*

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!

*CAROL

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

**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!**

**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!**

**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!**

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE –

Barbara Wierwille George H. Schano

To a people longing for hope and yearning for deliverance, the prophet Isaiah declared, The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined...For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Tonight, we come seeking hope, peace, joy, and love, and we find these things in a child, God made flesh as a baby in a manger. A baby who is both the beginning and the end of our salvation, who dwells with us even now, our Emmanuel, God with us.

We live as people in the in-between who celebrate the arrival of the Light that shines in lost and broken places as we wait for the day when we will live in the fullness of God's kin-dom.

We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, the love that transforms us, and Jesus Christ, our wondrous Light. May the Light burning in our hearts guide us, comfort us, protect us, and tend us in all seasons and circumstances, reminding us that day and night, in the light and in the darkness, God is with us. Our salvation has come! Amen.

CANDLELIGHTING CAROL

(Handchimes Choir rings 1 verse, then congregation sings.)

**O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
has come to thee, O Israel.**

THE CHRISTMAS STORY- Luke 2:1-7

PLACING THE CHRIST CHILD IN THE MANGER

CAROL

"Away In a Manger"

The Children and Congregation

(All children are invited to sing as our children's choir tonight. The youngest child present will place Baby Jesus in the manger.)

**Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

THE CHRISTMAS STORY CONTINUED - Luke 2:8-20

SPECIAL MUSIC *"Go Tell It on the Mountain"* Forest Arnold

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

SCRIPTURE – Isaiah 9:2-7

SPECIAL MUSIC *"On This Day Earth Shall Ring"* Chimers

MEDITATION

Dr. Linda Dickerson

"How the Light Gets In"

*CAROL

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

**It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,**

To touch their harps of gold:

"Peace on the earth, good will to all,

From heaven's all-gracious King":

The world in solemn stillness lay, To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,

With peaceful wings unfurled,

And still their heavenly music floats O'er all the weary world.

Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,

And ever o'er its Babel sounds The blessed angels sing.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / THE 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.

LITANY OF LIGHT (*John 1*)

*In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God.*

**All things came into being through him,
and without him not one thing
came into being.**

*What has come into being in him was life,
and the life was the light of all.*

**The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.
The true light, which enlightens everyone
was coming into the world.
And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory . . .
full of grace and truth.**

THE SHARING OF THE LIGHT

CAROL *“Silent Night, Holy Night”*

**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.**

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE LIGHT

In the midst of darkness, candles have shone.

Glory to God in the highest!

In the midst of darkness, we have seen the light of Christ!

Glory to God in the highest!

*In the midst of darkness, we have been promised
peace and good will.*

Glory to God in the highest!

*In the midst of darkness, we go forth to be
the light of Christ.*

**Glory to God in the highest!
And on earth, peace, goodwill to all.
Alleluia! Amen.**

CAROL*

"Joy to the World"

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**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*

POSTLUDE*

*PLEASE EXTINGUISH YOUR CANDLE BEFORE LEAVING AND DEPOSIT IT
IN THE RECEPTACLE IN THE NARTHEX. THANK YOU.*

Thanks for music tonight to Pat Fullen, Forest Arnold, the
Chimers, Marshall and Alex Chaney, Thomas Debusk, Mark
Freeman, Ann Marie Conner, and all others who offered their
gifts for this service.

NORTHSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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UPCOMING

December 25-January 1 – Church Office closed

December 31, 10:00 am – Service of Carols

January 7 – February 11 – Sermon Series: *Who is This Jesus?*

January 7 – *Sharing Light*

January 14 – *The Reveal (Baptism of the Lord)*

January 21 – *An Urgent Mission*

January 28 – *Go Tell!*

February 4 – *Secrets*

February 11 – *Exposed (Transfiguration)*

January 10, 1:30 pm – Women's Bible Study

January 14, 11:00 – Annual Meeting of the Congregation

January 14, 3:00 – Martin Luther King, Jr., celebration
Church on Main, Blacksburg

January 20 – Church Officers' Retreat

January 21 – Ordination/Installation of new officers

February 14 – Ash Wednesday, Lent begins

*To those who are weary and need rest;
To all who are lonely and need friends;
To all who mourn and need comfort;
To all who pray,
and to all who do not, but ought;
To all who sin and need a Savior,
And to whosoever comes –
The Church opens wide its doors, and says,
In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, "Welcome."*