

THE WAY OF PEACE



SAINT LUKE'S
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 24, 2024 5 p.m.



Prelude

Mac Olive

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Shannon Dill

Lighting of the Christ Candle

The Moss Family

Song of Praise

Angels We Have heard on High *(the congregation is invited to sing)*

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 Light of Christmas

Special Music

What a Glorious Night

Anna Jean Lower, Sydney Moss,
Cooper Waller and Wells Waller

Before the Light

Carol

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear *(the congregation is invited to sing)*

1 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.

2 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.

Rays of Light

Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem *(the congregation is invited to sing)*

1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all on earth.

The Most Beautiful Light

Carol

Away in a Manger (*the congregation is invited to sing*)

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

2 The cattle are lowing;
the poor baby wakes,
but little Lord Jesus,
no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus;
look down from the sky,
and stay by my side
until morning is nigh.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus;
I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me,
I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy
tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee
there.

Christmas Message

Shannon Dill

***Children are invited to come forward and sit on the chancel steps.
Children may return to their seats after the prayer.***

Offering

O Holy Night

Anna Jean Lower, Sydney Moss,
Cooper Waller and Wells Waller

Christmas Litany*

by Jan Richardson, *Circle of Grace*

Leader: I cannot tell you how the light comes.

People: **What I know is that it is more ancient than imagining. That it travels across
an astounding expanse to reach us.**

Leader: That it loves searching out what is hidden, what is lost, what is forgotten or
in peril or in pain.

People: **I cannot tell you how the light comes, but that it does.
That it will. That it works its way into the deepest dark that enfolds you,
though it may seem long ages in coming or arrive in a shape you did not
foresee.**

Leader: And so may we this day turn ourselves toward it.
May we lift our faces to let it find us.
May we bend our bodies to follow the arc it makes.

All: **May we open and open more and open still to the blessed light
that comes.**

Candle Lighting*

The ushers will light a candle at the end of each pew. Please receive the light by dipping your candle into the lighted candle and passing the light to your neighbor.

Carol*

Silent Night, Holy Night! *(the congregation is invited to sing)*

At the conclusion of the carol, the Sanctuary lights will come up and you are invited to extinguish your Christmas candle.

1 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.

2 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

3 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.

4 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.

Benediction*

Postlude*

Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child
Arr. Mark Hayes

Cast

Mary & Joseph – Katie and Jason Moore
Baby Jesus - Ellie Moore
Shepherd Brother - Wesley Sobeck
Mary's Angel – Vera Dean
Joseph's Angel – Lad Dean
Angels – Bea Riddle, Ann Preston Olive
Roman Soldiers – Mac Olive, Tommy Rohall
Innkeeper – Wyatt Gullledge
Live Sheep Shepherds – Evan Murray, Hope Murray, Cullen Davis
Shepherds – Hayes Phillips, Blake Cantwell, Wesley Sobeck, Dylan Wilkes,
Star of Bethlehem – Danny Rohall
Light Bearers – Grace Wilkes and Gray Gullledge
Narrators – Rowan Phillips, Wesley Sobeck, Elsie Riddle, Nolan McGoldrick
Technical Assistance – Steve and Faye Cashwell
Spotlight – TJ and Sydney McGoldrick
Costume Helpers – Banks and Brian Gullledge
Parent Stage Directors – Caitlin Phillips, Kathryn Olive and Kelly Davis
Kids' Welcome Team – Samantha Moss and Cricket Townsend