



Christmas Eve Service

First Presbyterian Church of West Chester

December 24, 2021

7:00 pm

Prelude

Christmas Carol Medley, Christmas Fantasy
arr. Joel Raney

Lighting of the Christ Candle

*Call to Worship

Rejoice, oh people of God. The light has come into the world.

There is no shadow it cannot illumine.

Let us worship the one whose light invites all creation to life abundant.

Let us worship the Lord!

*Hymn # 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Please watch the Director of Music for singing cues

*Prayer of the Day

Vulnerable God, before whom rulers surrender,

Release us from the powers that lay claim upon our lives.

Let us not miss your salvation in those places which seem poor and insignificant.

Clear our eyes, as you did for the shepherds and saints before us,

so that we may see the glory that surrounds us always. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Welcome

First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 52:7-10

Anthem

Mary Had a Baby
arr. Lloyd Larson

Prayers of the People and 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.

Special music

O Holy Night
arr. John Rutter

Hymn # 134

Joy to the World

During the hymn, children are invited to join Ms. Sara in the Chapel for a short program.

They will return to their families during the Affirmation of Faith.

Prayer for Illumination

**Holy God, by the light of your Word and the breath of your Spirit,
bring us good news of great joy for all.**

As your Scripture is read,

may we feel Christ's presence with us this night. Amen.

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 2: 6-20

Sermon

"A Weary World Rejoices"

Rev. Caroline Cupp

*Affirmation of Faith

It is not true that creation and the human family are doomed to destruction and loss—

**This is true:
For God so loved the world that God gave his only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.**

It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction—

This is true:

I have come that they may have life, and that abundantly.

It is not true that violence and hatred should have the last word, and that war and destruction rule forever—

This is true:

Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of peace.

It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil who seek to rule the world—

This is true:

To me is given authority in heaven and on earth, and lo I am with you, even until the end of the world.

It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted, who are the prophets of the Church before we can be peacemakers—

This is true:

I will pour out my spirit on all flesh and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions and your old men shall have dreams.

It is not true that our hopes for liberation of humankind, of justice, of human dignity, of peace are not meant for this earth and for this history—

This is true:

The hour comes, and it is now, that the true worshipers shall worship God in spirit and in truth.

So let us enter Christmas in hope, even hope against hope.

Let us see visions of love and peace and justice.

Let us affirm with humility, with joy, with faith, with courage: Jesus Christ, the life of the world.

*Hymn # 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Please watch the Director of Music for singing cues

*The Light of Christ

Light your candle from your neighbor's, lowering the unlit taper into the flame. After the sanctuary lights come back on, put out the flame by placing it under the small plastic communion cup at your seat.

*Congregational Response

Silent Night, Holy Night

*The Chancel Choir will sing the first verse in German;
then the congregation will sing all 3 verses.*

**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! 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.**

**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.**

Blessing

Postlude

In Dulci Jubilo
arr. Norman Dello

**You are invited to stand as you desire.*

Leading us in worship today are Rev. Caroline Cupp, Executive Pastor; David Stone, Liturgist; Sandor Kadar, Director of Music; Kira Boros, Choir Accompanist; Reid Simmons, guest organist; Lyndsay and Michael Spaziani, vocal soloists; The Chancel Choir.

Members of the Brass Ensemble: Ashley Mariani, Charlotte McMillen and George Whittam, trumpet; Casey Jennings and Doug Congdon-Martin, French horn; Abby Jennings and Brendan Egan, trombone; Brian Claeys, Brett Haney and Brandon Mooney, tuba; David Sabella, timpani/drum set.

Worship notes: The Affirmation of Faith was written by Daniel Berrigan, SJ. The blessing was written by John O'Donohue. The cover art is by Fr. Engelbert Mveng, *Nativity*, early 1990s - Central scene from church mural. Holy Angels Church, Aurora, Illinois.