



# Christmas Eve Service

## First Presbyterian Church of West Chester

December 24, 2021

3:00 pm

Prelude

Christmas Carol Medley

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

\*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

Special music

O Holy Night  
Adolphe Adam

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.**

\*Hymn # 134

Joy to the World

Children's Message & Second Scripture Reading

Selections from Luke 2

*After the message, children are invited to join Ms. Sara in the Chapel for a short program.  
Children will return to their families during the Affirmation of Faith.*

Response

Angels We Have Heard on High

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

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—

\*Hymn # 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

\*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 soloist 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.**

**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.**

**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

Go, Tell It on the Mountain  
arr. Richard Elliott

*\*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;  
Adriana Park, violin.

**Worship notes:** The Affirmation of Faith was written by Daniel Berrigan, SJ. The blessing is 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. Back page art is by Sadao Watanabe, *Nativity*, 1960s? Stencil print on momigami paper.

