



**United Presbyterian  
Church**

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"WHERE GOD IS EXALTED,  
EVERYONE MATTERS,  
AND YOU BELONG!"

# Prelude



**Carol of the Bells - Leontovich/R. Daniels**



## **OPENING PRAYER**

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.



**Advent Candle Lighting (The following reading is based on the work of an anonymous author.)**

Let your light shine by handing over your heart to Jesus Christ the King of Glory. His love is the light of the soul and the world. It shines in the darkness. It sings in the shadows. It will not cover and cannot be contained. It was the hope of the saints and the call of the prophets. It was the fire in the belly of the Baptist and the courage of Mary. Lamp in the window, beacon on the hill, star in the night sky. Go tell it on the mountain: the love of God's Love shines brightly.

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light a candle for love.

**All: God, help us walk in Your light.**



**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**





*Welcome*



# Announcements

1. Today, immediately after worship, finance and stewardship committee meeting in the sanctuary.
2. Tonight, 7:00 PM, Advent study, via Zoom
3. Thursday at 7:00 PM, Christmas Eve Service via YouTube



# OPENING HYMN



**(GTG) #133**

**O Come All Ye Faithful**

# RESPONSIVE READING

## PSALM 96



O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

**Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.**

Declare his glory among the nations and his marvelous works among all the people.

**For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.**

All the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

**Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts.**

Worship the LORD in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.

**Say among the nations, "The LORD is King! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the people with equity."**

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

**let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD, for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness and the people with his truth.**





## PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THANKSGIVING



Lord, we love you, adore you, and bow down before you. You make us glad, and we are thankful. The humble circumstances of Jesus' birth remind us that, like Christ, our divine destiny is more important than the circumstances of our birth. The presence of the magi and their role in the nativity story reveal your willingness to work through any who are willing to follow your leading. Thank you, Lord. Amen.

# CAROL SING

Away in a Man manger No crib for a bed. The little Lord Jesus Lay down His sweet head.

The stars in the sky Look down where He lay. The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay

## **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

## **It Came Upon a 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 men. From heaven's all-gracious King, The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

## **Hark the Herald Angels Sing**

Hark the herald angels sing: Glory to the newborn King! Peace on earth and mercy mild. God and sinners reconciled Joyful, all ye nations rise. Join the triumph of the skies. With angelic host proclaim: Christ is born in Bethlehem. Hark! The herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King!

## **Silent Night**

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, and all is bright 'Round yon virgin mother and Child, Holy infant so tender and mild sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace





## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION



**O Holy One, heavenly angels spoke to earthly shepherds, and eternity entered time in the child of Bethlehem. Through the telling of the Christmas story, let our temporal lives be caught up in the eternal in that same child, that we might join all the heavenly host in praising the coming of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

# RESPONSIVE READING

## ISAIAH 9:2-7



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.

**You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.**

For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

**For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.**

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.

**His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.**



# HYMN

## Jesus, the Light of the World



Walk in the light, beautiful light, down where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright. Shine all around us by day and by night. Jesus the Light of the world.

RESPONSIVE READING  
TITUS 2: 11-14



For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly,

while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the Glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.





## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING



Almighty, thank you for Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith. As we celebrate his birth, we recall with joy, thanksgiving, and remorse that his divine destiny was to be the sacrificial lamb taking on our sin, making it possible for humanity to become your children, not just your creation. We rejoice in the revelation that all who trust that Jesus is the Messiah, are given the privilege of becoming adopted into your holy family (John 1:12). Our souls cry Hallelujah and thank you, Jesus!



## PRAYER FOR HELP



Almighty, in your mercy, create in all those who desire to worship you in spirit and truth, a clean heart and a right spirit. Help us not to repay anyone evil for evil. Instead, help us overcome evil with good. Grant us the grace to earnestly pray for those who despitefully use, plot and conspire to undermine us, and unjustly say all manner of evil things about us. Forgive them and us. Help us love them as you love us. Then, those who desire to know you will realize you are alive and moving on the altars of the hearts of humanity. In your mercy, please hear our prayer and grant our requests. In Jesus' mighty name, we pray. Amen.



# SOLO



**Ms. Sue Terry**

## READING OF THE NATIVITY STORY PART 1, Luke 2: 1-10



In those days, a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.

This was the first registration taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

All went to their own towns to be registered.

Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger because there was no place for them in the inn.

Shepherds lived in the fields in that region, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the Glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:



**SOLO**



**Elder Marcia Marsh-Hinds**

## READING OF THE NATIVITY STORY PART 2 Luke 2: 11-20



to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger.

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying, and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.



# Closing Hymn



**GTG #134**

**Joy to the World**



**AMEN**



**(GTG) #599  
CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**



# Postlude



**HALLELUJAH CHORUS**

# THE BENEDICTION

Glory to God, and peace, abundant living, and good will to all.

