



# CHRISTMAS EVE

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# WORSHIP SERVICE

*Northampton Presbyterian Church*

Northampton Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

December 24, 2024

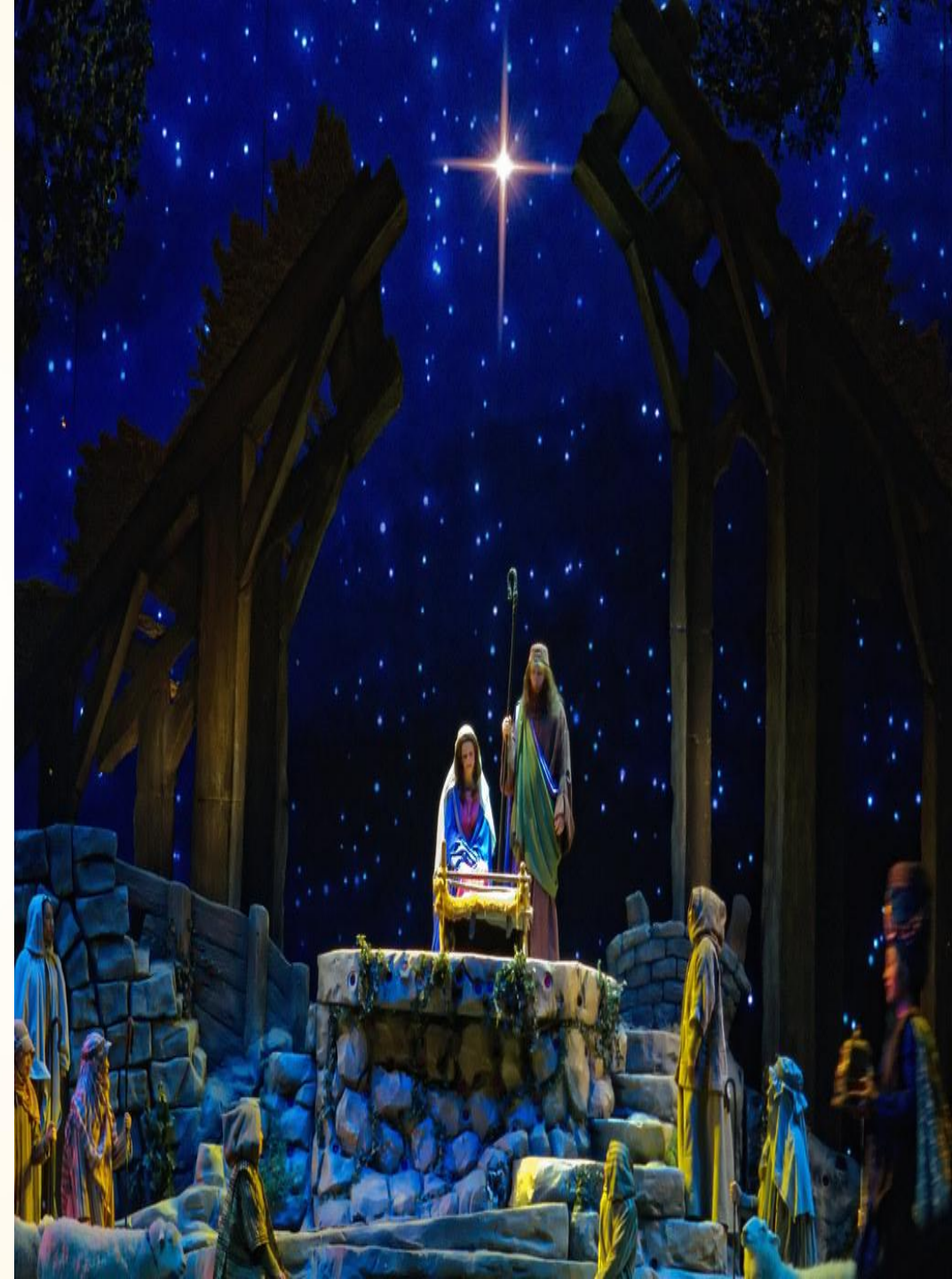
4:00 PM

**PRELUDE**

**The Manger**

**Schmidt, Nelson, van der Beek**

**WELCOME**



## RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (John 1:1-5)

ONE: In the beginning was the Word

**MANY: And the Word was with God**

ONE: And the word was God.

**MANY: The Word was with God in the beginning.**

ONE: Everything came into being through the Word,

**MANY: and without the Word, nothing came into being.**

ONE: What came into being through the Word was life,

**MANY: and the life was the light for all people.**

ONE: The light shines in the darkness,

**MANY: and the darkness did not overcome it.**

# **PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**CAROL: HYMN #133, vs. 1,3, and 4    O Come, All Ye Faithful  
ADESTE FIDELIS**

**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!**

**Refrain:**

**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 heav'n above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest**

**Refrain:**

**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 giv'n!  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!**

**Refrain:**

**O come, let us adore Him;**

**O come, let us adore Him;**

**O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!**

FIRST LESSON: LUKE 1:26-38

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE: HOPE

Steve and Cathy Cocchia  
Candle Lighters

**We light this candle of hope as a sign of our commitment to pay attention and prepare for the days that are surely coming and are already here—the days when God’s kin-dom of love, justice, and mercy will reign.**

*The candle is lit.*



**CAROL: HYMN #113, vs. 1 and 3 Angels We Have Heard On High  
GLORIA**

**Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains.**

**Refrain:**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing.  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.**

**Refrain:**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

## SECOND LESSON LUKE 1:39-45

### LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE: PEACE

**We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts, our families, our communities, and throughout the earth until God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven.**

*The candle is lit.*

**CAROL: HYMN #123, vs. 1 and 4 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear  
CAROL**

**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.**

**CAROL: HYMN #123, vs. 1 and 4 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear  
CAROL**

**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.**

**For lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophet seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world send back the song  
which now the angels sing.**

THIRD LESSON: Luke 1:46-55

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE: JOY

**We light this candle of joy as a sign of our commitment to be present to ourselves, our friends, our families, and our neighbors that in sharing our vulnerable lives we might share in the glorious joy of God's salvation together.**

The candle is lit.

A MESSAGE FOR ALL CHILDREN: FOUR GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS

FOURTH LESSON: Matthew 1:18-25

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

**We light this candle of love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God's promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God's love for all creation.**



**CAROL: HYMN #119, vs. 1 and 2**

**Hark, the Herald Angels Sing**

**MENDELSSOHN**

**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 th'angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

**Refrain:**

**Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King"**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of the Virgin's womb:  
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail th'incarnate Deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel.**

**Refrain:**

**Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King"**

FIFTH LESSON: Luke 2:1-20

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Finding the Light of Christmas

Rev. Judith A Dwyer

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE AND RESPONSIVE LITANY

ONE: Jesus of Bethlehem and Nazareth and Calvary

MANY: **We celebrate your birth**

**Come and be born in us.**

ONE: Jesus of Mary and Joseph  
Jesus of shepherds and angels  
Jesus of children and animals  
Jesus of fishermen and priests  
Jesus of women and men  
Jesus of tax collectors and prostitutes  
Jesus of all who will receive you

**MANY: We celebrate your resurrection  
Come and be born in us.**

## INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

The Wexford Carol

Traditional Irish Carol

## OFFERTORY PRAYER AND RESPONSE (sung)

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, rich and poor, to own him,  
The King of Kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing.  
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.**

# LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

**CAROL: HYMN # 122, vs. 1, 2 and 3**

**Silent Night**

**STILLE NACHT**

**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!**

**Shepherds quake at the sight;**

**glories stream from heaven afar,**

**heavenly hosts sing “Alleluia:**

**Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!”**

**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.**



# CHRISTMAS PRAYER

**CAROL: HYMN #134, vs. 1 and 4**

**Joy to the World!**

**ANTIOCH**

**Joy to the world; the Lord is come;  
Let Earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry Heart prepare him room,  
And Heav'n and nature sing.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness,  
And wonders of his love.**

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

**When Christmas Morn is Dawning**

**S**

# Worship Notes:

The **Prayer of Invocation** is written by Joanna Harader, and posted on Spacious Faith. <http://spaciousfaith.com/>

The **Responsive Litany** for the lighting of the Christ candle is adapted from a prayer by Doug Gay from [Alternative Worship](#). Posted on the **Grace** website worship archive. <http://www.freshworship.org/>

The **Christmas Prayer** is attributed to Robert Louis Stevenson.

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The Benediction is adapted from a prayer written by Roddy Hamilton, and posted on **Listening to the Stones**. <http://newkilpatrickblog.typepad.com/nk-blogging/mucky-paws/>

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