
Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service

December 24, 2013 | 11pm

Welcome

Prelude

“Music for Christmas”
Phil Sargeant, oboe; Angelina Savoia, harp; Fred Markey, organ

Call to Worship and Prayer of Adoration

*Hymn No. 155

Verse 1:

Organ Interlude:

Verses 2-4:

“Once in Royal David’s City”
Valerie Kraft, soprano
(The congregation is invited to stand and sing.)
All

Irby

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Responsive Reading:

Pastor: We recall that the Lord Jesus Christ came to save. He said, “The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news and bind up the broken hearted.”

People: *He has come to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners. Come, Lord Jesus.*

Pastor: We recall that the Lord Jesus Christ came to bring peace. It is said of Him, “The Spirit of the Lord will rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, of counsel and power. With righteousness He will judge, and He will establish justice on all the earth.”

People: *The wolf will lie down with the lamb. The leopard will lie down with the goat. They will neither harm nor destroy, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. Come, Lord Jesus.*

Pastor: We recall that the Lord Jesus Christ came to establish a new kingdom. It was promised that, “The people who walked in great darkness have seen a great light. On those living in the shadow of death a light has dawned.”

People: *For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be upon His shoulders and He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government there will be no end. Come, Lord Jesus.*

Pastor: We recall that the Lord Jesus Christ came as God to be with us forever, and “every valley shall be raised up and every mountain and hill made low, the rough places shall become level, the rugged places made smooth, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.”

People: *The Sovereign Lord comes with power. He tends His flock like a shepherd; He gathers His lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart. Come, Lord Jesus.*

*Hymn No. 145 “O Come, All Ye Faithful” Adeste Fideles

Prayers of Intercession and the Lord’s Prayer

*Hymn “On Christmas Night All Christians Sing” Sussex Carol

On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring;
On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring;
News of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King’s birth.

Then why should men on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad:
Then why should we on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad:
When from our sin He set us free, all for to gain our liberty.

When sin departs before Your grace, then life and health come in its place;
When sin departs before Your grace, then life and health come in its place;
Angels and men with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing this night;
All out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing this night:
“Glory to God and peace to men, now and forevermore. Amen.”

Old Testament Reading Micah 5:2-5a page 779, pew Bible

Anthem “In the Bleak Midwinter” Gustav Holst

*Sanctuary and Youth Choir; arr. Mack Wilberg
Phil Sargeant, oboe; Angelina Savoia, harp*

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain; heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

(The congregation is invited to stand and sing.)

What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

~ Christina Rossetti, 1872

Call for the Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory “O Holy Night!” Adolphe Adam

Valerie Kraft, soprano; Angelina Savoia, harp; Fred Markey, organ

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of our dear Savior’s birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
’Til He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

*Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;
O night divine, O night, O night Divine.*

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother;
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name.
*Christ is the Lord! O praise His Name forever,
His power and glory evermore proclaim.
His power and glory evermore proclaim.*

~John Sullivan Dwight

New Testament Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

pages 807-8, pew Bible

Sermon

“Born for Us”

Dr. Robert Norris

Meditation

“The Sleep of the Infant Jesus”
*Lisa-Beth Lambert, violin; Angelina Savoia, harp;
Fred Markey, organ*

Henri Büsser

***Responsive Reading**

Pastor: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

People: *He was in the beginning with God.*

Pastor: All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made.

People: *In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.*

Pastor: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

People: *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.*

Pastor: And we beheld His glory.

People: *The glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth*

***Hymn**

“Silent Night”

Stille Nacht

All: 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.

Solos: 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.

Long ago and far away, Jesus in a manger lay
In Bethlehem this morning glory, honor, laud and praise
Be to God for endless days. Christ was born to save!

All: 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

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

Paul Manz

Please extinguish candles at the end of the service and place in boxes in the narthex. Thank you.

Fourth
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Fourth Presbyterian Church is a member congregation of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC).

FOURTH PASTORS

Dr. Robert M. Norris, *Senior Pastor*, Dr. Todd Smedley, *Senior Associate Pastor*;
Rev. Corey Gray, Rev. Ron Meyer, Rev. David O’Connell, and Rev. Blair Smith, *Pastors*