
Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service

December 24, 2014 | 11pm

Prelude

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

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 Jesus Christ came to save. He has said, “The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted.”

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

Pastor: We recall that 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 the needy, and with justice He will give decisions for the poor of the earth.”

People: *“The wolf will live 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 Jesus Christ came to establish a new kingdom. It was promised us, “The people walking in great darkness have seen a great light. On those living in the land of 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 and peace there will be no end.” Come, Lord Jesus.*

Pastor: We recall that Jesus came to be God with us forever. “I will send my messenger who will prepare the way for me. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low, the rough places shall become level, the rugged places a plain and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.”

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

***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 all 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”

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through Him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

***Hymn No. 623**

“Gloria Patri”

Greatorex

Scripture Lesson

Exodus 33:7-23

page 73, pew Bible

Anthem

“Gesù Bambino”

Pietro Yon

*Dave Klemm, tenor; Angelina Savoia, harp
Daniel Mears, percussion; Sanctuary and Youth Choirs*

When blossoms flowered ’mid the snows upon a winter night,
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose, the King of love and light.
The angels sang. The shepherds sang. The grateful earth rejoiced.
And at His blessed birth, the stars their exultation voiced.

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

Again the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night
That gave the world its Christmas Rose, its King of love and light.
Let every voice acclaim His name, the grateful chorus swell!
From paradise to earth He came that we with Him might dwell.

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

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Dr. Todd Smedley

*Hymn No. 158

"Away in a Manger"

Cradle Song

Call for Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Receiving of Tithes and Offering

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 Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining, 'til He appear'd 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.

~ Placide Cappeau

Scripture Lesson

John 1:1-18

page 886, pew Bible

Sermon

"The Greatest of All Mysteries"

Dr. Robert Norris

*Hymn No. 125

"Joy to the World!"

Antioch

***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 nothing was 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 comprehend it.

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

Pastor: And we beheld His glory,

People: *The glory as 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

**Congregation standing*

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

Fourth
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

5500 River Road, Bethesda, Maryland 20816–3399
Phone: 301-320-3434 | Fax: 301-320-6315 | www.4thpres.org

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, and Rev. David O’Connell, *Pastors*