

# Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded



**December 26, 2021**

*Welcome to worship this morning!*

*Bulletin Cues: **Bold** indicates congregational response. \* indicates please stand, if able*

## **GATHERING AROUND THE WORD OF GOD**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us praise the name of God, who comes to us!

God commanded and we were created.

Leaders and followers, old and young,

all of God's beloved children:

**Let us come to worship God.**

**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 the angelic host 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 the incarnate deity,  
pleased in flesh with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel. [*Refrain*]**

## LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy Spirit, may we, like the people in the Temple one day long ago, gather to listen and learn from the wisdom of the Christ-child through the reading of your holy word. **Amen.**

### RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 148 (adapted)

**Praise God! Shout praises from the heavens,  
declare them from the heights!**

Sing praises, all you angels and heavenly host;  
sing praises, sun and moon, and glittering stars.  
Praise God, you highest heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.

**Praise the name of God, who called you forth,  
who established you forever and ever.**

Shout your praises, all the earth, sea monsters and all depths,  
fire and hail, snow and frost, storm winds, fulfilling God's word.  
Mountains and all you hills, orchards and cedars,  
you beasts, both wild and tame; creeping reptiles, flying birds.  
**Mighty and humble, women and men, young and old together.**  
**Praise the holy Name, the Name beyond all names,**

God's wonder is above the earth and heavens,  
giving strength and hope to all people.  
**God be praised by all the faithful,**  
**for God has come to dwell with us. Alleluia!**

SCRIPTURE READING                      Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

SPECIAL MUSIC                      Joy to the World                      PTCA Virtual Choir

GOSPEL READING                      Luke 2:41-52

*In this text, we have our only biblical account of Jesus between infancy and adulthood. So... was he a typical adolescent or not?*

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it.

Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us

like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.” He said to them, “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

Heaven and earth will pass away but the word of the Lord stands forever.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*Ready as We'll Ever Be*

Pastor Jan

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

\*HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 144 In the Bleak Midwinter

*vs. 1 and 4*

1 In the bleak mid-winter, frost-y wind made moan;  
4 What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i-ron, wa-ter like a stone;  
If I were a shep-herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall-en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
 yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

**A CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*Based on the poem "First Coming" by Madeleine L'Engle,  
 adapted by Rev. Lisa Ann Moss Degrenia*

Christians, what do we believe? We believe:

**God did not wait till the world was ready,  
 till nations were at peace.**

**God came when the Heavens were unsteady  
 and prisoners cried out for release.**

**God did not wait for the perfect time.**

**God came when the need was deep and great.**

**God dined with sinners in all their grime,  
 turned water into wine.**

**God did not wait till hearts were pure.**

**In joy God came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.**

**To a world like ours, of anguished shame,**

**God came and God's Light would not go out.**

**God came to a world which did not mesh;  
 to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.**

**In the mystery of the Word made Flesh,  
 the Maker of the stars was born.**

**We cannot wait till the world is sane  
 to raise our songs with joyful voice,**

**For to share our grief, to touch our pain,**

**God came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

God, our Savior,

**hear our prayer.**

# LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father and Mother in heaven, hallowed be your name.**

**Your kindom come, your 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 let us not be led into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**


**For the kindom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

## SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

\*CLOSING HYMN GTG

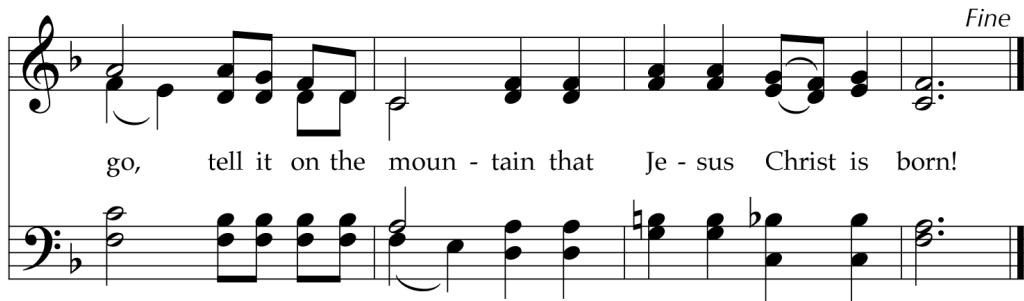
Go, Tell It on the Mountain

*vs. 1 and 3*

*Refrain* 




Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;



go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

*Fine*



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

*to Refrain*

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Arise! Shine!

For your light has come.

Let your life be the light of Christ

so that all people may know

that they, too, share in the promises of God.

May God bless you,

and keep you in the Spirit's care;

may God lead your lives with love.

**Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**

# Community Presbyterian Church

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## TODAY AT CPC

**Sunday, December 26**

9:30 am Worship Service

## THIS WEEK AT CPC

Monday, December 27

Office Closed

Tuesday, December 28

9:00 am Bulletin Announcements Due

12:00 pm Conference Call \*

Wednesday, December 29

Office Closed

Thursday, December 30

Office Closed

**Sunday, January 2**

9:30 am Worship Service with Communion



Judy Leal

Jane and Ed Burgstaler family,  
especially daughter Jenny

Connie Holst

MariLynn Johnson

Vera Atkinson's daughter, Teresa

Mark Pillers's parents, Lars and June

*To be added to the prayer list,  
please contact the church office at  
507-280-9291 or  
email [office@cpchester.org](mailto:office@cpchester.org).  
For emergency pastoral care,  
call Pastor Jan at 763-219-2927.*

**Online Worship: Sundays 9:30 – 10:30am**

<https://meet.google.com/vao-wjef-cbe>

+1 575-305-4527 PIN: 652 821 468 #

**\* Tuesday's Conference Call**

<https://meet.google.com/kee-rcys-sdh>

+1 413-889-2244 PIN: 433 818 991#

Pastor	Rev. Jan Wiersma
Choir Director	Meg Cain
Handbell Director	Judy Kereakos
Pianist	Glenna Muir
Custodian	Nancy Sanford
Office Manager	Stephanie Pasch

### Serving in Worship Today

Liturgist	Peggy McCarty
IT Support	Bruce Felger