

# Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded



**December 24, 2022**

**Christmas Eve**

Welcome to worship this evening!

Bulletin Cues: **Bold** indicates congregational response, \* indicates please stand, if able  
Bathrooms are located down the hall, around the corner to the left. A family bathroom is located in the hallway on the right hand side (next to the Kidz Klub).

PRELUDE

WELCOME

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

In the darkness, stars shine.

**In the cold of winter, a warmth rises.**

In the silence, angels approach.

**In the mystery of this night, your people gather, O God.**

Your Word is made flesh, and we come in humble awe.

**Your grace unfolds among us, and we come to witness,  
to worship, and to wonder. Alleluia!**

CAROL GTG 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful/Adeste Fideles

*vs. 1 and 3*

*English, Text and Music: John Francis Wade, c. 1743; originally in Latin*

**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!**

**Sing, choirs of angels;  
sing in exultation;  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God,  
all glory in the highest!**

**O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ, the Lord!**

**O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ, the Lord!**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

People aged two to eighty-two were asked to complete the thought, "My life is..." From the voices of different generations, hear the answers; then ask yourself the same question. When the mic comes to you, you may say a few words or pass it along.

Voice 1: Amazing!

Voice 2: Privileged.

1: Hopeful.

2: Still unfolding.

1: Long, but good.

2: Incomplete, thank goodness.

1: Full of twists and turns.

2: A story of resilience.

- 1: Older Adult: A work in progress.  
 2: My story is not just mine, it's tied to yours.  
 1: People of faith, tell us of your life: "My life is...?"

Tonight we tell the story that we tell every year—the story of Christ's birth, the story of love made flesh. It's a story that weaves through every generation. It's a story that picks up the bits and pieces of our narrative and braids us together.

*The Christ Candle is lit.*

So tonight we light the Christ candle, because from generation to generation, our story belongs to God. Thanks be to God for a love like that. **Amen.**

CAROL GTG 128                      Infant Holy, Infant Lowly                      *both verses*  
*Polish, 13th or 14th-century, W Żłobie leży, "In manger lying"*

**Infant holy, infant lowly,  
 for his bed a cattle stall;  
 oxen lowing, little knowing  
 Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
 Swift are winging angels singing,  
 noels ringing, tidings bringing:  
 Christ the babe is Lord of all!  
 Christ the babe is Lord of all!**

**Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping  
 vigil till the morning new  
 saw the glory, heard the story,  
 tidings of the gospel true.  
 Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
 praises voicing greet the morrow:  
 Christ the babe was born for you!  
 Christ the babe was born for you!**

THE FIRST LESSON                      Isaiah 11:1-10                      *The Peaceful Kingdom*  
*It's all about harmony*

CAROL GTG 129                      Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming                      *vs. 1 and 2*  
*Germany, 15th-century, arr. Michael Praetorius, 1699*

**Lo, how a rose e'er blooming  
 from tender stem hath sprung,  
 of Jesse's lineage coming,  
 by faithful prophets sung.  
 It came, a floweret bright,  
 amid the cold of winter,  
 when half spent was the night.**

**Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
 the rose I have in mind;  
 with Mary we behold it,  
 the virgin mother kind.  
 To show God's love aright  
 she bore for us a Savior,  
 when half spent was the night.**

THE SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 35:5-10

*Everlasting Joy*

CAROL GTG 134

Joy to the World

vs. 1, 3, 4

*English, Text: Isaac Watts, 1719; Music, George Frederick Handel, 1742*

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.**

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

THE THIRD LESSON

Micah 5:2-5a

*The One of Peace*

*That glorious song of old*

CAROL GTG 123

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

vs. 1, 3 and 5

*American, Text: Edmund Hamilton Sears, 1849; Music: Richard Stores Willis, 1850*

**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 all,  
from heaven’s all-gracious King”:  
the world in solemn stillness lay,  
to hear the angels sing.**

**Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
the world has suffered long;  
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled  
two thousand years of wrong;  
and we at war on earth hear not  
the tidings that they bring;  
O, hush the noise and cease the strife  
to hear the angels sing!**

**For lo, the days are hastening on,  
by prophets 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 give back the song  
which now the angels sing.**

THE FOURTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

*Mary Opens Herself*

CAROL GTG 116

The Snow Lay on the Ground

vs. 1-3

*West of England, Text: Anglo-Irish carol, 1860; Music, Italian folk melody  
(Originally sung in Rome by the Pifferrari from the Abruzzi Mountains)*

**1 The snow lay on the ground; the stars shone bright,  
when Christ our Lord was born on Christmas night.**

**Venite adoremus Dominum.**

**Venite adoremus Dominum.**

*Refrain:*

**Venite adoremus Dominum.**

**Venite adoremus Dominum.**

**2 'Twas gentle Mary maid, so young and strong,  
who welcomed here the Christ-child with a song.  
She laid him in a stall at Bethlehem;  
the ass and oxen shared the roof with them. [Refrain]**

**3 Saint Joseph too was by to tend the child,  
to guard him, and protect his mother mild.  
The angels hovered round and sang this song:  
Venite adoremus Dominum. [Refrain]**

THE FIFTH LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

*Joseph's Dream*

***What's in a name?***

CAROL GTG 139

That Boy-Child of Mary

vs. 1, 2 and 6

*African, Text: Tom Colvin, 1967; Music, Malawi Melody*

*Refrain*



That boy-child of Mar - y was born in a sta - ble, a



man - ger his cra - dle in Beth - le - hem.



- 1 What shall we call him, child of the man - ger?
- 2 His name is Je - sus, God ev - er with us,
- 6 Glad - ly we praise him, love and a - dore him,



What name is giv - en in Beth - le - hem?  
God giv - en for us in Beth - le - hem.  
give our - selves to him of Beth - le - hem.

THE SIXTH LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

*Unto Us a Child*

***Beloved of abolitionists***

SOLO

*Cantique de Noël*

Soloist Mark Neville

*French, Text: Placide Cappeau, 1843; Music, Adolphe Adam, 1843;*

*translated, John Dwight, 1855*

THE SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

*Born into Oppression*

CAROL GTG 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

vs. 1 and 2

*American; Text, Phillips Brooks, 1868; Music: Lewis Henry Redner, 1868*

O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the king,  
and peace to all on earth.

THE EIGHTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-20

*In Heaven and on Earth*

*Oldest of all?*

CAROL GTG 113

Angels We Have Heard on High

vs. 1 and 3

*French, probably dating from the 1700s, but refrain possibly 2nd Century.*

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!

Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!



CAROL GTG 122

Silent Night

verses 1-3

*Original German text: Joseph Mohr, 1816; translated, John Freeman Young, 1863**Music: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818**As the flame is passed, please tilt your unlit candle into your neighbor's lit one.*

**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!"**

POSTLUDE

**3 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.**

Please continue to pray for:

Judy Leal

Jane and Ed Burgstaler family,  
 especially daughters Jenny  
 and Elissa

Connie Holst

MariLynn Johnson

Vera Atkinson's daughter, Teresa

Shannon Cisewski

Judy Robb's brother, Dan

Ron Murray

Dick and Nancy Massaro

***To be added to the prayer list,***  
***please contact Pastor Jan at***  
***[pastor@cpcrochester.org](mailto:pastor@cpcrochester.org).*** ***For emergency***  
***pastoral care, call Pastor Jan at***  
***763-219-2927.***

### Serving in Worship Tonight

Liturgist	Dave Copeland
Special Music	Mark Neville
Candlelighters	Mark Neville and Glenna Muir
IT Support	Bruce Felger
<b>Church Staff</b>	
Pastor	Rev. Jan Wiersma
Choir Director	Meg Cain
Handbell Director	Judy Kereakos
Pianist	Glenna Muir
Custodian	Nancy Sanford
Office Manager	Stephanie Pasch

Reminders...

- No Sunday worship tomorrow, Christmas Day
- The office is closed this week, except for Wednesday morning.