



# First Presbyterian

## CHURCH OF EASTON



### A Service of Lessons and Carols Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023

*\*Indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit as you are able.*

#### PRELUDES

Of the Father's Love Begotten	arr. Weston
A Christmas Lullaby	The Handbell Choir music: Anna Laura Page
Mid-Winter	The Christmas Brass Quintet music: C. Rosetti, G. Holst
I Wonder As I Wander	The Christmas Brass Quintet music: Appalachian Traditional
Pat-a-Pan	Susan Charlton, flute music: Traditional
O Holy Night	Richard Linnell, baritone music: Adolphe Adam
Sing We Now of Christmas	Susan Charlton, flute music: French Traditional
Huron Carol	The Christmas Brass Quintet music: J. de Brebeuf
Once in Royal David's City	The Christmas Brass Quintet music: C. F. Alexander, H. G. Gauntlett
He Is Born, the Holy Child	The Handbell Choir arr. Barbara B. Kinyon
O Blessed Savior	Elizabeth Campbell, soprano music: Chelsey Kahmann

#### TOWER BELLS

#### WELCOME

#### LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Shirley Heinsohn & Ruthann Arras

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us come and celebrate that God is with us!

**This is the night of the Holy Birth of Emmanuel!**

Let the love of Jesus be born in your hearts and spirits!

**We open our hearts to receive this blessed gift, God's Love is here!**

Rejoice, good friends, the Good News is here!

**Christ our Savior is born!**

**The Lord of Light, the Prince of Peace has come. Hallelujah! Amen!**

ANTHEM

Still, Still, Still

The Chancel Choir

text: Marilyn Keith & Alan Bergman  
music: Austrian Carol, arr. Norman Luboff

Still, still, still one can hear the falling snow.  
For all is hushed, the world is sleeping,  
Holy Star its vigil keeping  
Still, still, still one can hear the falling snow.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.  
The night is peaceful all around you,  
Close your eyes, let sleep surround you  
Sleep, sleep, sleep 'tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.

Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.  
While guardian angels without number  
Watch you as you sweetly slumber.  
Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.

FIRST LESSON

**God Creates Light**

Genesis 1:1-10

\*CAROL 48 (V.1-2)

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

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.

SECOND LESSON

**A Great Light Foretold**

Isaiah 9:2-7

CAROL 41 (V.1. & 3)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

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!  
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 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!

THIRD LESSON

**An Unforeseen Birth**

Luke 1:26-35

\*CAROL 16 (V.1-2)

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
"All hail," said he, "O lowly maiden Mary,"  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

"For know a blessed mother you shall be,  
All generations praise continually,  
Your son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold."  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

FOURTH LESSON

**A Child Is Born**

Luke 2:1-7

\*CAROL 44 (V.1-2)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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.

FIFTH LESSON

**The Shepherds and the Angels**

Luke 2:8-16

\*CAROL 23 (V.1-2)

Angels We Have Heard on High

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.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heavenly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

SIXTH LESSON

**A Visit From the Magi**

Matthew 2:1-6, 9-12

\*CAROL 66 (V.1-2)

We Three Kings of Orient Are

We three kings of Orient are,  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.  
O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light!

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
Gold I bring to crown Him again,  
King forever, ceasing never  
Over us all to reign.  
O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light!

MEDITATION

Let There Be Light

Rev. Larry Van Hise

OFFERING

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

SEVENTH LESSON

**Jesus, Light of the World**

John 8:12

PASSING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

\*CAROL 60 (V.1-4)

Silent Night, Holy Night

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.

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

Joy to the World

The Christmas Brass Quintet

***The poinsettias are given in memory of:***

Hattie Sandt, mother of Shirley Van Norman,  
*by Jim & Shirley Van Norman*

Dolly Fehnel, sister of Shirley Van Norman,  
*by Jim & Shirley Van Norman*

Jacob and Margaret Van Norman, parents of Jim Van Norman,  
*by Jim & Shirley Van Norman*

Joyce Parkansky, sister of Jim Van Norman,  
*by Jim & Shirley Van Norman*

Sal Ritz, godfather of Jessica Van Norman,  
*by Donna Van Norman*

Cindy Walters, friend of Donna Van Norman,  
*by Donna Van Norman*

Dear Family and Friends,  
*by Gloria Snyder*

Kevin Martin,  
*by Bud & Linda Martin*

John (Bud) & Nancy Wilson,  
*by Amy Hilliard*

Loved Ones who have passed,  
*by Peg & Larry Opthof*

-continued-

Loved Ones,  
*by Kevin & Wanda Joshua*  
Naomi Smith, Wendell Smith, Esther Conard, and Jesse Conard,  
*by Ruthann Arras*  
Camille & Grace Barranger, parents of Susan Mackay,  
*by Susan Mackay*  
Ann & Dick Beers,  
*By Chris & Candy Gulotta*  
Norma & Tony Gulotta,  
*by Chris & Candy Gulotta*  
Jeanette Smith,  
*by Darcel Hayes-Bridges*  
Janet Wright Burke,  
*by Darcel Hayes-Bridges*

*We welcome Dr. Barbara Thomson as our guest organist this evening. Organist Barbara Thomson has concertized widely across Europe and the United States. Highlights include performances at the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin, and in Germany, Austria, Italy, Holland, and Slovakia. In the US she has performed at Lincoln Center and the Riverside Church, NYC, the Kennedy Center, the National Presbyterian Center in Washington, DC, and many other venues. Dr. Thomson is currently Artist/Instructor of Organ at Moravian University and organist for the Moravian Vespers.*

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Worship Leaders

Rev. Larry Van Hise  
Gloria Snyder, Pianist  
Dr. Barbara Thomson, Guest Organist  
The Handbell Choir  
Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director  
The Chancel Choir  
Jim Middendorf, Shirley Heinsohn, Peter Becker, Ruthann Arras,  
Bill Schroeder, Candy Gulotta, Caitlin Omaboe-Mensah, Liturgists

The Christmas Brass Quintet

Steve Kuder, Trumpet  
TJ Kurczewski, Eb Horn  
Art Charlton, Trombone  
Ryan Lamoreux, Euphonium  
Sebastian Stanton, Tuba

Tech Support: Jacob Van Norman, Bill Bartlett, Rich Linnell, Pat Koefoed

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