

# St. Philip's United Church of Christ

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[www.stphilipsucc.com](http://www.stphilipsucc.com)

## Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion December 24, 2021



Pastor: Rev. Michael (Mike) Krewson  
Administrative Assistant: Carol O'Shea

Council President: Sandy Stevenson  
Youth Director: Andrea Tukin

Music Director: Mike Orzel

\*indicates that you may rise as comfortably able  
(text in bold read in unison)

# Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion

Prelude

Lighting the Candles

\* Call to Worship (Responsively)

The impossible is about to happen in a stable. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

**Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them has the light shined!**

This is the evening when creation stood still and held its breath, for God was doing the most wonderful, dangerous thing.

**This is the evening when God embraced humanity from the inside, as one of us, from birth to death.**

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

**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.**

\* Opening Hymn: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" #148

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.

\* Evening Prayer (All)

**God, we are drawn to you this evening by the voice of angels calling, announcing to the world the coming of our Christ, our Prince of Peace.**

**Though veiled in flesh, we know him as your own, and we rejoice in the flesh he shares with us, for by your holy incarnation all the world is sanctified tonight, and made a home where your gracious love is once again revealed.**

**So we come this evening, joyful and triumphant, to Bethlehem again. Behold, once more, the Son of God is born. Amen.**

\* Response: The refrain of Hymn # 148: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

**O Come let us Adore Him,  
O Come let us Adore Him,  
O Come let us Adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.**

Lighting of the Christmas Candle

Scripture: Luke 2:8-15

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”

Hymn: “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” #153 Verses 1 and 4 only

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.

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet 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 send back the song which now the angels sing.

Scripture: Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.

This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

All went to their own towns to be registered.

Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Hymn: "What Child is This" #162

What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste, to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste, to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Scripture: Luke 2:16-20

So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Anthem: "Emmanuel"

Our Gifts

Response "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God, all creatures here below;**

**Praise God above, ye heavenly host:**

**Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer Dedicating our Gifts (Together)

**O God, our hearts are full of anticipation and hope. The beauty of this season brings us face to face with your son, the miracle of the Incarnation.**

**As we worship the infant king, we celebrate the greatness of this gift you have given. Receive, we pray, our gifts as we welcome your presence tonight. Amen.**

## THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

### INVITATION (Responsively)

Come to the Lord's Table, all you who love him. Come to the Lord's Table, be at peace.

**Always and everywhere, O God, we give thanks to you.**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift them to God.**

As part of the one Church throughout God's creation;

**Let us give thanks to God Most High.**

### COMMUNION HYMN: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" #144 Verses 1 & 2

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.

Your voices raise to God in praise; and peace to all on earth.

### THE BREAKING AND POURING

### SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

## THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Together)

**Almighty God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery  
in which you have given yourself to us.**

**Send us now in the strength of the Spirit  
to give ourselves for others,  
and call all to rejoice with us  
in your saving love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## COMMUNION HYMN: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" #144 Verses 3 & 4

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the joys of highest heaven.  
No ear may hear Christ coming, but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our God, Emmanuel.

## Candle lighting, as we sing Closing Hymn "Silent Night" #145

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.

Benediction

Postlude

Thank you to all who  
helped beautify our Church  
this Christmas season.



- Carole Armistead . . . . . in memory of Loved Ones
- Barbara Barnes . . . . . in memory of Marvin & Clara Barnes  
and Roy & Faye Harvey
- Lois Decker . . . . . in memory of Roger and Jeffrey Decker
- Harry Jennings . . . . . in honor of Family & Friends
- The Knoll Family . . . . . in memory of Bradley Knoll  
and our Parents & Grandparents
- Art Kuhn/Paul Shrout . . . . . in memory of Arthur,  
Consuela/Ted Kuhn,  
Rev. Stanley, Nettie May Shrout
- Hilda Leonard . . . . . in memory of Bud Leonard
- David Schiele . . . . . in memory of Peggy Schiele
- Mike & Kathy Shelton . . . . . in memory of our parents
- Don & Patty Siewing . . . . . in memory of our parents