

St. Philip's United Church of Christ

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Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion December 24, 2022



Pastor: Rev. Laura Mignerone
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)

In the beginning, there was the Word:

The Word was in God's presence, and the Word was God.

The Word was present to God from the beginning. Through the Word all things came into being...

In the Word was life, and that life was humanity's light - -

And the Word became flesh and stayed for a little while among us;

We saw the Word's glory - -

The favor and position a parent gives an only child - -

Filled with grace, filled with truth.

Let us rejoice in the Word!

Let us worship our God!

* OPENING 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.

* PRAYER OF INVOCATION (TOGETHER)

O Word made flesh, you have come into our midst as light and wisdom, desiring to be known to us in our lives and to be found in the world around us. Open our eyes and our ears and our hearts to recognize you where you dwell - in our midst - challenging, heartening, lighting the way to truth, peace, and justice. AMEN.

* HYMN: "Go, Tell it on the Mountain" # 167 Verses 1 & 2

(Refrain)

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light

(Refrain)

The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth,
rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior's birth.

(Refrain)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES: (PBUCC)

For unto us a child is born! Unto us a Song is given!

We are overwhelmed with joy!

God brings us hope in the Christ child!

We celebrate the birth of love!

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

PRAYER - UCC BOW (Together)

We thank you, God, for your gift of Jesus Christ to the entire world. We thank you that Christ's coming makes hope, peace, love, and joy possible for every person in every nation. Encourage us to do our part to bring goodwill and peace to our families, our churches, our neighborhoods, and the world. Now let your Spirit put us in touch with you, the living God, through the words and music we hear tonight. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, AMEN.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY IN LESSONS AND CAROLS

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.

CAROL: "Once in Royal David's City" # 165 Verses 1 & 2

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed;
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

Christ came down to earth from heaven, love incarnate for us all,
and his shelter was a stable and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor, the scorned, the lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:8-14

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!”

CAROL: “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” # 150 Verses 1 & 2

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!”
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, off-spring of the Virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,
please in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:15-20

When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go right now to Bethlehem and see what’s happened. Let’s confirm what the Lord has revealed to us.”

They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them.

Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen.

Everything happened just as they had been told.

CAROL: "Joy to the World" # 143 Verses 1 & 3

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.

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.

HOMILY

ANTHEM: "What Child is This" # 162 (Congregation joins in Refrain) (Refrain)

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste, to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Your kingdom come, thy 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 lead us not into temptation, but deliver us
from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERING - Worship Ways

Offertory

* Doxology #46 "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 of Dedication (Together)

God of peace and joy, you bind us together as if in swaddling bands of our own cloth. We are meant to be together, meant to be active participants in your great story, the story of humanity's redemption. We give these gifts with open eyes that can see, if for but a moment, strands of linen gently guiding us all toward one another. AMEN.

BAPTISM

Welcome

Members and friends in Christ, we gather now to celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.

There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us.

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Creator of us all.

Address

Jesus came to John to be baptized by him. But John tried to make him change his mind. "I ought to be baptized by you," John said, "yet you have come to me!"

Jesus said, "Let it be so for now. For in this way, we shall do all that God requires." So John agreed.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he came up out of the water. Then heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and lighting on him.

Then a voice said from heaven, "This is my own dear Son, with whom I am well pleased."

...and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.

Questions Of The Candidate

Congregational Assent

Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as he lives and grows in Christ?

We promise our love, support, and care.

Affirmation Of Faith

Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

Do you believe in God?

I believe in God.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit.

Prayer

Act Of Baptism

Prayer

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Away in a Manger" Cara Schamburg

HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

BREAKING, POURING, SHARING

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Together)

Eternal God, you have called your people from east and west and north and south to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank you for Christ's presence and for the spiritual food of Christ's body and blood. By the power of your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to your will.

Go with us to the streets, to our homes, and to our places of labor and leisure that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray. AMEN.

TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

PASSING THE LIGHT

* CLOSING HYMN: "Silent Night" # 145 Verses 1 - 3

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

Ferd & Margaret Bienefeld Ann Thuston
and Arthur & Jacqueline Brewer

Lois Decker in memory of Roger and Jeffrey Decker

The Knoll Family in memory of Gail and Bradley Knoll
and our Parents & Grandparents

Art Kuhn and Paul Shrout in memory of
Arthur, Consuela, & Ted Kuhn,
Rev. Stanley, and Nettie May Shrout

Mike & Kathy Shelton in memory of loved ones

Don & Patty Siewing in memory of Lillian & Wayne Patterson
and Billie Jean Roark



Our Vision Statement

St. Philip's Vision Statement

We are called to the body of Jesus Christ, with:

Minds to study God's word,
Mouths to proclaim the Gospel,
Eyes to see the needs of others,
Arms to welcome all,

Hearts big enough to share God's love with all God's children.



Gail Avery
Joyce Brand
Sandy Ganz
Grace Heady
Virginia Hladnick
Pam Kelly
Marilyn Milne

Sue Myers
Jered Nagle
Shirley Nottelmann
Janet Remmers
Paul Shrout
Lily Swanson
Paula Williams



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