

Christmas
Eve



First Presbyterian Church
DECEMBER 24, 2014
6:00 P.M.

THE CHURCH GATHERS . .

WELCOME AND SHARING OF COMMUNITY LIFE

CAROL OF PREPARATION No. 44

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Leaders: Clay, Megan, Jackson and Aidan Clay Milton

Leader: During Advent we have gathered around the Advent Wreath to light special candles,

People: to remind us of Jesus, who comes to show us the light divine.

Leader: Tonight as we celebrate again his birth in Bethlehem’s manger stall,

People: we remember those who prayed as they waited for his coming.

All Sing

Veni Emmanuel

**O come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

(The Lighting of the Christ Candle)

People: so that at all times and in all places we can claim the assurance of God's mighty power in our lives.

All Sing: *Veni Emmanuel*

**O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by your advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice!**

Emmanuel has come our darkness to dispel

(The Lighting of the Candle of the Dayspring from the Christ Candle)

Leader: Tonight we come to rejoice that in Emmanuel God's light divine has shone into all of the darkness of this world,

People: and that all that darkness has not been able to extinguish it.

All Sing: *Veni Emmanuel*

**O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one
heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and discord cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice!**

Emmanuel has come our darkness to dispel.

(The Lighting of the Candle of the Desire of Nations from the Christ Candle)

Leader: Tonight we come to rejoice that in Emmanuel, God has given to us the gift of the Prince of Peace,

People: who is still seeking to bring heaven's peace to this world.

Leader: Tonight we come again to hear the angel's message of peace on earth,

People: as we come to adore Him, who is Emmanuel, Christ the Lord.

* **CAROL OF ADORATION No. 41**

Adestes Fidelis

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

LITANY OF CONFESSION

Leader: In the gift of Jesus you have come to us as Emmanuel, O God, to assure us that you will always be with us.

Unison: For where we have failed to acknowledge your presence with us at all times and in all places, Emmanuel, please forgive us.

Leader: In the gift of Jesus you have come to share your wisdom with us, O God, and to show us how you would have us to live as your children.

Unison: For where we have felt that our wisdom is wiser than yours, and we have refused to follow your guidelines for life, please forgive us, O Lord, our Emmanuel.

Leader: In the gift of Jesus, you have come to us, O God, as a branch from the Root of Jesse, and as the Key of David.

Unison: For where we have failed to appreciate your faithfulness to your promises, O Emmanuel, please forgive us.

Leader: In the gift of Jesus, you have brought to us your light divine, O God.

Unison: For all of those times when we have refused to walk in your light, please forgive us, O Lord our Emmanuel.

Leader: In the gift of Jesus, you have given to this world the One who should be the desire of every nation bringing to all people your heavenly peace, O God.

Unison: For our own failure to desire your ways of peace in Jesus, the Prince of Peace, please forgive, O God.

Leader: As we continue to celebrate the birth of the One whom you have sent to be our Redeemer, O God,

Unison: Remind us again of the joy and peace you desire to bring to the lives of all who will claim him as their Redeemer.

PERSONAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION IN SILENCE

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*** SUNG RESPONSE OF DEDICATION No. 23**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

TO HEAR AND REFLECT ON GOD’S WORD . . .

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

**Isaiah 9:2-7
Pew Bible Page No.555**

The Response: Leader: This is the Word of the Lord
People: **Thanks be to God!**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

**Luke 2: 1-20
Pew Bible Page No. 832-3**

The Response: Leader: This is the Word of the Lord
People: **Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

**“Let Us Light A Candle”
Text by Rev. Robert Willis
Music by Richard Shephard**

SERMON

"A Light Shines in the Darkness"

The Rev. Dr. Ted Land

**TO RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD
AND TO CELEBRATE THE LORD’S SUPPER.....**

*** CAROL OF THE PRESENCE OF JESUS OUR EMMANUEL No. 27**

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

*** INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE**

*** THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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

Thy 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.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

(Please hold the bread and the cup until all have been served.)

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD AND FOR OURSELVES

TO SHARE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST . . .

SHARING OF THE LIGHT OF CHRIST, OUR EMMANUEL

(The pastor will light a candle from the Christ Candle and light the candles of the elders, who will then light the candles of the first person on each aisle. Light will then be passed from worshiper to worshiper. The lighted candle should remain upright and the unlighted candle is tipped to the lighted candle.)

* CAROL OF DEDICATION No. 60

Stille Nacht

(the candle is held close to the chest)

1. **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.**

(the candle is extended outward)

2. **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."**

(the candle is extended upward)

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.**

* THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Leader: Let us look at the light of our candles, and let us remember that in Jesus God has come to us as our Lord Emmanuel.

Unison: Jesus is our assurance that God is with us,

Leader: and that God will never leave or forsake us,

Unison: and that nothing in life or in death can separate us from God's love.

Leader: Let us go forth into the darkness of this night knowing that God is with us.

Unison: Let us go forth into the darkness of every day and every night knowing that God will be with us.

Leader: Let us go forth from this place to share the good news that Jesus has been born.

Unison: Emmanuel has come! God is with us!

*** SHARING GOD'S GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS**

(Please extinguish your candle, and then please take it with you to the receptacles in the narthex or the hallway as you leave. As you leave, please greet those around you, as we share together the good news of Jesus, our Lord Emmanuel, God with us.)

*** ORGAN POSTLUDE**

*** All who can do so comfortably will stand**

Welcome to Worship at the First Presbyterian Church on this Holy Night. We invite you to worship with us on future occasions. Each Sunday, we have Education Classes for all ages at 9:45 a.m. and our Worship Service at 11 a.m.

All who seek to love and serve the One who has come as Emmanuel, God with us, and who are members of any Christian Church, are invited to share in the meal he has given us as a way of remembering him. According to the tradition of this congregation, we will hold the bread and the cup in order that we might eat and drink together when we are invited to do so. You are encouraged to hold the bread with the napkin provided as you break off your piece.