

GREAT VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE 2023 – 7:30pm

Organ Prelude

Choral Prelude

A Tribute of Carols – Chancel Choir

Welcome and Invocation

Call to Worship

Song*

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Responsive Reading*

Genesis 3:8-15

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall crush the serpent's head.

*We then long for this one to come –
for He will make things right.*

Song*

#92 – Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

Scripture

Isaiah 9:6-7 and Micah 5:2 – Sharon Alexander

Isaiah prophesies that the coming King would hold several titles above all others, while Micah prophesies that the coming King would be born in Bethlehem.

We marvel: to such a small town comes such a great King!

Song

96 – O Little Town of Bethlehem

Scripture

Luke 1:26-38 – Rachel Ritter

The angel Gabriel announces to Mary the birth of Jesus, the Son of the Most High. He is the seed of the woman announced in Genesis, the King born in Bethlehem foretold by Isaiah and Micah.

Song

What Child Is This?

Scripture

Matthew 1:18-23 – James Waldron

*The angel tells Joseph of the one to be born to Mary –
He will save his people from their sins.*

The question remains: Has He saved you from your sins?

Song

#87 – O Come, O Come Emmanuel (verses 1 & 2)

Scripture

Luke 2:1-7 – Rev. Paul Toms

Luke tells of the birth of Jesus. The one through whom all the galaxies were made now lies as a baby in a feeding trough.

Choral Anthem

Selections from *Messiah*

And suddenly there was with the angel

Glory to God

Scripture

Luke 2:8-20 – Ted Wray

Hearing the announcement of the heavenly host, the shepherds journey to see the Savior announced to them. Now that you have heard of this Savior will you journey to see Him and receive Him?

Song*

#93 – Angels We Have Heard on High

Message

Rev. Keith Fink

A Savior for the Outsiders

Matthew 1:1-16

Special Music

O Come All You Unfaithful – Chris & Vicky Starr

Candle Lighting Liturgy

The Fanus Family

Song*

Silent Night! Holy Night!

Benediction*

Postlude

* Those who are able may stand

Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Liturgy

UNISON: **How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive Him still
The dear Christ enters in.**

Leader: The Christian life begins not with high deeds and achievements, but with the most simple and ordinary act of humble asking. "Here I am. I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him and he with me." (Revelation 3:20)

Lighter: We light this candle on Christmas Eve to celebrate the hope and joy of Christ's birth.

UNISON: **The beginning-less, omnipotent Creator of the Universe
took on a human nature without the loss of his deity.
Jesus, the son of Joseph and Mary, was both fully divine
and fully human. Of all the things that Christianity
proclaims, this is the most staggering.**

(Tim Keller, *Hidden Christmas*)

Responsive Reading

Genesis 3:8-15

Leader: And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"

People: **The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate."**

Leader: Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

People: **The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.**

Leader: "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring;

People: **"he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel."**