

GREAT VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE 2021 – 7:30pm

Candlelight Guidelines

To help ensure that our Candlelight Service truly is memorable, enjoyable and safe for all, please observe the following guidelines:

- Wax drips are hot and hard to clean from pew pads and clothes; please use a drip protector with your individual candle in the pews.
- After the singing of “O Holy Night,” individual candles will be lit from the center aisle and then out to the sides of the church.
- Hold *unlit* candles horizontally to light them, then hold *lit* candles upright to pass the flame along.
- Parents, please supervise young children with lighted candles.
- Please extinguish all candles following the Benediction.
- As you exit the service, leave your candles in the boxes at the doors.

Poinsettias

Thank you to those who donated Poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary! You may collect them after the service tonight.

GREAT VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE 2021 – 7:30pm

Organ Prelude

Choral Prelude

Joy to the World– Chancel Choir

Welcome/Call to Worship

Opening prayer

Song*

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Scripture

Genesis 3:8-15 – Paul Reader

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

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus – #86

Scripture

Isaiah 9:6-7 – Frani Hitzelberger

Isaiah prophesies that the coming King would hold several titles above all others.

Song*

Glorious Light

Scripture

Luke 1:26-38 – Carolyn Chawla

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 Micah.

Special Music

Be Born in Me – Lindsay White

Scripture

Matthew 1:18-23 – Don Kienz

*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?*

Special Music

You Came Down – Andrew Schuck

Scripture

Luke 2:1-7 – Chris Starr

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.

Anthem

A Great and Mighty Wonder – Chancel Choir

Scripture

Luke 2:8-20 – Kyle Kuchera

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*

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing – #97

Message

Rev. Keith Fink

Waiting Then and Now
Galatians 4:4-6, John 14:1-6

Song*

Joy to the World – #92

Candle Lighting Liturgy

The Goetz family

Special Music

O Holy Night – Chris and Vicky Starr

Song*

Silent Night

Benediction*

Postlude

* Those who are able may stand

CHRISTMAS EVE

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. (*Hymn #96*)

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 honor Mary's commitment to God that brought Jesus into the world.

UNISON: "The beginningless, omnipotent Creator of the universe took on a human nature without the loss of His deity so that Jesus, the son of Joseph of Nazareth, was both fully divine and fully human. Of all the things that Christianity proclaims, this is the most staggering (Timothy Keller, *Hidden Christmas*)."

GREAT VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CHRISTMAS EVE 2021 – 4:30pm

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.

* * * * *

⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

John 1:1-5, 9-14

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

* * * * *

⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.
¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.
¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

GREAT VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CHRISTMAS EVE 2021 – 4:30pm

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Welcome
Call to Worship
Opening Prayer

Scripture Reading Luke 2:1-20 – Chris Zubyk

Song O Come All Ye Faithful

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

Message Rev. Keith Fink

Waiting Then and Now
Galatians 4:4-6, John 14:1-6

Songs Joy to the World
Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

WE DEPART TO SERVE GOD’S WORLD

Scripture Reading Isaiah 9:2, 6-7
John 1:1-5, 9-14

Song Silent Night

Luke 2:1-20

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed,[b] who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Shepherds and the Angels

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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
Heav'nly 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

Words by Joseph Mohr, 1818, tr. John F. Young, 1863
Music by Franz Gruber, 1818

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

God of God, Light of Light
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb
Very God, begotten not created

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 in the highest

O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

Yea Lord we greet Thee
Born on Christmas morning
Jesus to Thee be glory given
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing

O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

Latin hymn; attr. John F. Wade, 1751; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1841 and others
Music from John F. Wade's *Cantus Diversi*, 1751

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

Joy to the world the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing

Joy to the earth the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods
Rocks hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat repeat the sounding joy

No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found
Far as the curse is found
Far as far as the curse is found

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

Words by Isaac Watts, 1719
Music by George Frederick Handel, 1742
arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

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 th'angelic hosts proclaim:
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"
Hark the herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King"

Christ by highest heav'n adored
Christ the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of the Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail th'incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with men to dwell
Jesus our Emmanuel
Hark the herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace
Hail the Sun of Righteousness
Light and life to all He brings
Ris'n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark the herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King"

Words by Charles Wesley, 1739
Music by Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. William H. Cummings, 1856