

The Festival of Light

Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world; those who follow me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
The Christ candle represents Jesus, the Light of the world. The candle lighting ceremony is symbolic of the spreading of the Gospel Light from one life to another. The lighted candle is never tilted, but always held upright when giving light to another. The candles of the congregation should be extinguished after the last stanza of Silent Night.

Hymn – 122 (seated)

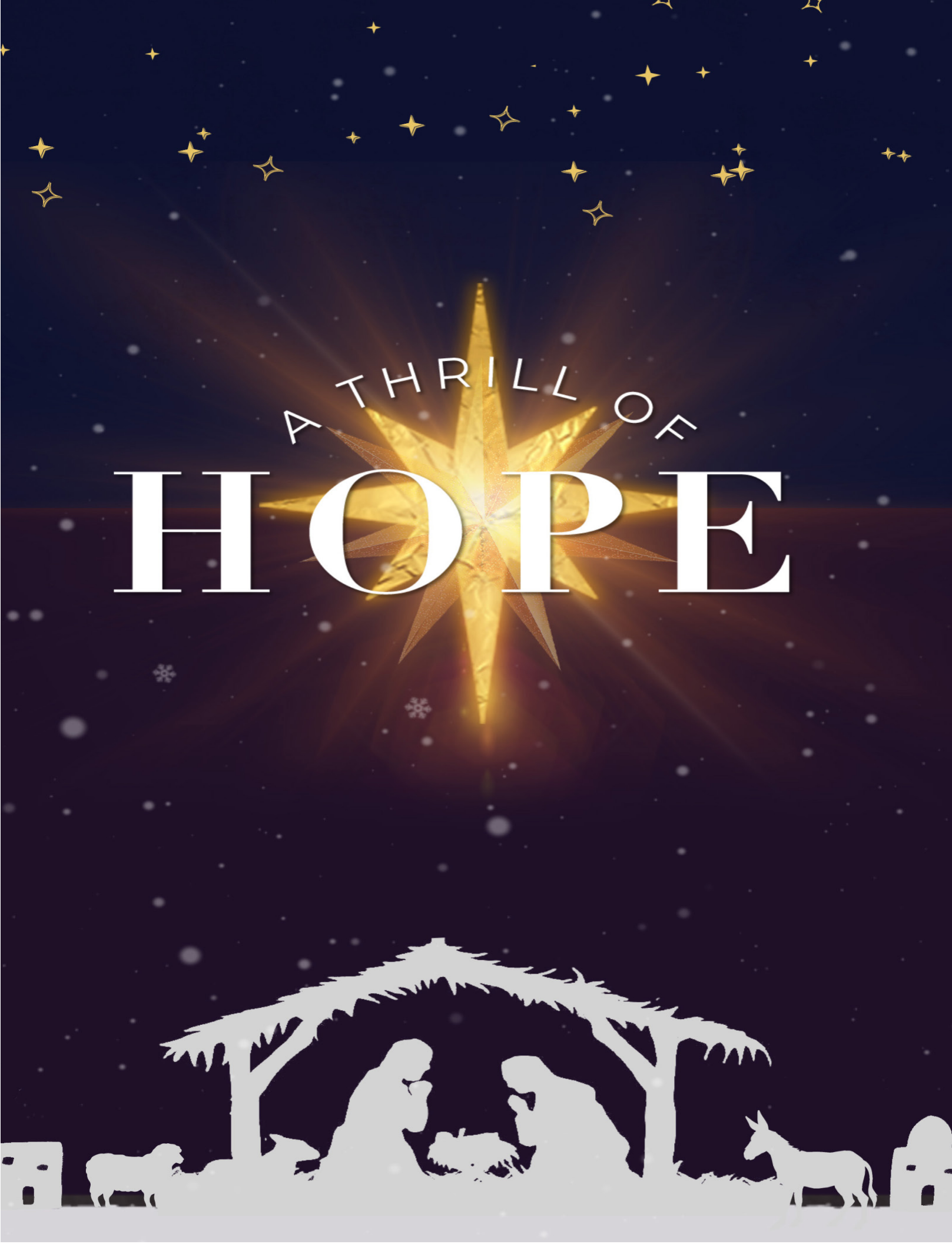
Silent Night, Holy Night

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| <p>1. <i>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.</i></p> | <p>3. <i>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.</i></p> |
| <p>2. <i>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."</i></p> | <p>4. <i>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."</i></p> |

****Benediction**

Thank you to Neil Danzig for operating the sound board this evening!

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Preludes	<i>It Came Upon the Midnight Clear</i>	arr. C. Rice
	<i>Nativity Medley</i>	arr. J. Purifoy

Welcome and Announcements

****Call to Worship**(L: Leader; **P: People**)
 L: Glory to God in the highest,
P: and peace to God’s people on earth.
 L: The grace of God has come to us;
P: Jesus Christ brings salvation to all.
 L: Light shines on those who live in darkness,
P: for a child is born to us this night.
 L: O, come let us adore him!

****Hymn** - Insert *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

****Silent Prayer of Confession** Rev. Howard Newman

****Common Prayer of Confession**
When we allow darkness to overcome the light, forgive us, Lord. When we reduce Christmas to plastic and tinsel, have mercy on us, Father. When hardness of heart keeps us from seeing and hearing and touching, let your grace consume us, O God. When the wars around us are of no concern, forgive us, Lord, and move us to compassion for those who suffer. When our caring is not extended to action, move us to seek justice for our brothers and sisters. We come to confess our sinfulness before you and before each other. We are but dust without your love. Remove all barriers that divide us, and let there be no obstacle to our love for you and for one another. Amen.

****Assurance of Pardon**
 L: Friends, this is the Good News of the Gospel...
P: ...in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

Response - 119 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (verse 3)*

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
 Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.*

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Lighting of the Christ Candle Tom and Meg Engle

Responsive Litany
 L: Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
P: I have put my spirit upon Him, He will bring forth justice to the nations.
 L: He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street;
P: A bruised reed He will not break, and a dimly burning wick He will not quench.
 L: He will faithfully bring forth justice.
P: He will not fail or be discouraged until He has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for His law.
 L: Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread forth the earth and what comes from it.
P: Who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it;
 L: “I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
P: I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations.”

Call to Prayer (sung)
**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.**

Christmas Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer (using “debts”)

Congregational Response (sung)
**Why lies he in much mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
 Good Chistian, 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.**

Prayer for Illumination
Deliverer God, our Advent journey is fulfilled. We have prepared our hearts and minds for this night’s Spirit-filled celebration. We are alert to your presence with us and pray for the grace of insight and understanding as we encounter your Word on this holy night. Amen.

Scripture Luke 2: 1-7

Anthem - insert *O Come, All Ye Faithful* arr. R. Mauldin
 Trinity Choir
 Congregation encouraged to sing (see insert)

Scripture Luke 2: 8-14

Anthem *Adore* arr. C. Tomlin
 The Band

Scripture Luke 2: 15-20

Anthem *O Little Town of Bethlehem (The Glory of Christmas)* arr. R. Mauldin
 Kylee Hoffman, soloist

Homily Rev. Scott Hoffman

****Hymn** – Insert *Joy to the World*

Offertory *Breath of Heaven* by C. Eaton
 Ashlee Hoffman, soloist
 Laura Yawney, oboe

This evening, along with our regular offering, we will collect the Christmas Joy Offering—one of the special offerings of the PC(USA). The monies collected as part of the Christmas Joy Offering will be used to provide financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families as well as to enable deserving students to attend Presbyterian-related racial ethnic colleges and schools. If you wish to give to the Christmas Joy Offering please place your donation in the envelope placed on the chairs.

****Doxology**
**So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh; Come, one and all, to own Him.
 The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
 This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
 Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the son of Mary.**