



Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve, 2024

5 PM Service of Worship and Celebration

Gathering

Prelude

Fantasy on *In Dulci Jubilo*

arr. H. Livingston, Jr.

Luke 1:47: *My Spirit rejoices in God, my savior!*

“Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!
Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven’s door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!”

(Words are Medieval Latin, translated by J. Neale, 1853; music is a 14th century German folk melody; public domain)
(this piano solo: Lorenz Publishing Co., 2012)

Welcome and Announcements

Passing of the Peace

L: The peace of Christ be with you. **P: And also with you.**

Call to Worship/Lighting of the Christ Candle

FISH Youth

Through the waiting, watching and wondering, as the darkness grew---

1. We have trusted the Holy One who ignites our hope.
2. We have entrusted ourselves to the Holy One who draws us on to peace.
3. We have trusted the Holy One who inclines our spirits to joy---*light the pink candle*
4. We have trusted the Holy One whose love turns the world around.

ALL: **Look, the light shines!**—*light the Christ candle*

**What came into being through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people
Jesus is the light in our darkness, the light of our lives.**

Response

When Jesus Was Born

by J. Martin/J. Reeves

Matthew 1:21a: *She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.*

FROG/BUGS Choir

Narrators: Riley Trodden, Colin Fieldsend and Rosie Keen

There’s a New Song in the Air, by J. Martin/J. Reeves

There Was No Room, by J. Martin

O Come, All Ye Faithful, arr. J. Reeves (**congregation is invited to sing v.3**)

ALL: Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all 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!**

(*O Come, All Ye Faithful, Adeste Fideles* is public domain)
(this choral arrangement: Shawnee Press/Hal Leonard LLC, 2024)

Call to Confession and Shared Prayer of Confession:

God, you are good, and you have been kind to us. Forgive us when we make the things we hope for more important to us than hoping for a safe and healthy world for everyone. Forgive us when we worry about unimportant things while we make getting our own way the most important thing of all: Show us how to live peacefully. Give us thankful hearts, and let us see the good things all around us—fill us with joy. Help us remember that we are here to grow up like you---loving God and loving people. Thankyou for becoming a baby, for becoming like us; please work in our hearts so that we can be more like you. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

****Response Hymn--110,v. 3**

Love Has Come

**Love has come, and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us; Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!**

Word

Word in Music

Little Lord Jesus

arr. R. Mallory

ROCK Chimes

Luke 2:5-7: He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

*(included in this medley are Away in a Manger and Silent Night; both are public domain)
(this instrumental arrangement published by Top Music, 2014)*

Word in Story

Luke 2:1-7, CEB

Liturgist Jeff Bloom

Word in Shared Storytelling

Luke 2:8-18

Rev. Janna VanderWoude

Rise up, Shepherds, Sheep, Angels and Good-News-tellers and Follow! Help tell the Wonderful, Joyous News!

Word in Charge to the People

Rev. Janna VanderWoude

****Response to the Word—134**

Joy to the World, v.1

**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!**

Thanksgiving/Eucharist

Invitation to Offering

There are numerous ways to give to the work of CMPC. Offering plates will be passed through the pews during the offertory for checks or cash to be left today. Cards with a QR code that will direct you to our online giving page are located in the pew racks. Donations can always be mailed to the church at anytime using the address on the back page of the bulletin. Thank you for your support!

Offertory

He Is Born with Pat-a-pan

arr. M. Hayes

*Isaiah 9:6: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

*“He is born, the divine Christ child; raise your voices in joyful melody! He is born, the divine Christ child, sing of Jesus, the Baby mild.
Through the ages, prophets told of a long-awaited Savior. Through the ages, prophets told of this Child we now behold.
He is born, the divine Christ child; raise your voices in joyful melody! He is born, the divine Christ child, sing of Jesus, the Baby mild.”*

(Song is a 19th century French carol; public domain. Pat-a-pan is a French carol in Burgundian dialect, composed by Bernard de La Monnoye in 1720; public domain. This piano solo: Word Music 2001)

****Doxology-151**

We Three Kings of Orient Are

**Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and sacrifice
Alleluia! Alleluia! Sounds through the earth and skies
O Star of Wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

Christmas Prayer with the Lord's Prayer (using "debts")

Sending

Lighting of the Candles (seated)

The Christ candle represents Jesus, the Light of the World. The candle-lighting "passing of the light" symbolizes the spreading of Jesus' light among creation and humankind, one life to another.

Hymn—122 (seated)

Silent Night

**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.**

**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."**

**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.**

**4. 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."**

****Benediction**

Postlude

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

arr. C. Rice

Luke 2:10-11: *But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.*

"God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay; remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day,
to save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy."

(traditional mid-18th century English Christmas carol; words and music are public domain)
(this piano solo published by Word Music in association with Rockettown Records, 2001)

**Thank you to Allen Exner and Neil Danzig for operating the sound board this evening!
Thank you to Kofi Akuoko for operating the cameras!**

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