

# Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church

***Christmas Eve, 2025***  
**8 PM Service of Worship**

## Gathering

*\*\*Indicates to stand if you are able*

**Prelude**

**“Adeste Fideles: O Come All Ye Faithful”** Arranged by Eric Kuhlstrom  
Augener and Co., London

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Passing of the Peace**

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

**Choral Prelude:**

“Is Your Heart Prepared for a King?”

R. Lau

H. Flammer Music, 1993

**Call to Worship/Lighting of the Christ Candle**

Tim and Tina Helble

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.**

*\*\*Hymn -110*

***Love Has Come (all verses)***

## Call to Confession

Rev. Janna VanderWoude

**Shared Prayer of Confession:** (End each "we have" petition with "Forgive us, Holy One")

L: God, you are good and merciful, and you look on us with love,

enough that you humbled yourself to be birthed as one among us.

We have often failed to honor the love shown to us in Bethlehem. **Forgive us, Holy One.**

We have resisted the changing of our world and of ourselves, denying your hope: **Forgive us, Holy One.**

We have worried but hung on tightly to our need to control and to be right, denying your peace: **Forgive us...**

We have feared the worst and set courage aside, declining your call to joy. **Forgive us, Holy One.**

Because we have often found favor in the world, we shy away from love that turns us, and the world, around.

**All: Holy child of Bethlehem, baby in a manger, be born in us.**

**Come to us: Live among us and in us, we pray. Amen.**

## Assurance of Pardon (from Zechariah's Song, Luke 1:68-72)

Rev. Janna VanderWoude

L: The Lord's grace is sure. God has looked with favor upon his people, and redeemed them.

**P: God has raised up a mighty savior from the house of David.**

L: God spoke through the prophets of old so that we would be saved from our enemies  
and from the hand of all who oppose us.

**P: God has shown mercy, and has remembered his promises.**

L: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**P: Thanks be to God!**

**\*\*Response - 119, v.3**

**"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"**

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 lay 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!"

## Word

### Prayer for Illumination

Liturgist James Board

We would make room for you this night of all nights, dear Lord: room in our minds and hearts;  
room also in our life together. Let your word be born again in us so that, by the power of the  
Holy Spirit, we might join with all the saints and angels, giving you glory and offering  
peace and goodwill toward all people.

### Gospel Reading

**Luke 2:1-7, NRSVUE**

Liturgist James Board

### Hymn – 146, v. 1,3

**"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"**

### Gospel Reading

**Luke 2:8-14**

### Hymn -143, v. 1-2

**"Angels, From the Realms of Glory"**

Liturgist James Board

|                |                           |   |
|----------------|---------------------------|---|
| Gospel Reading | Luke 2:15-20              | Rev. Janna VanderWoude  |
| Homily         |                           | Rev. Janna VanderWoude  |
| Word in Song   | “Do You Hear What I Hear” | N. Regney, G. Shane<br>Arr. By H. Simeone<br>Regent Music, 1962 |

## Thanksgiving/Eucharist

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| Invitation to Offering and Discipleship                                |  | Rev. VanderWoude                           |
| Offertory  | "Andante"  | Traditional Air<br>Augener and Co., London |
| **Doxology—143, v. 4   | “Angels, From the Realms of Glory”<br>All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son<br>Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One<br>Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King. |  |
| Christmas Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord’s Prayer (using “debts”) |  | Liturgist James Board                      |

## Sending

### Shining Light: We Share the Light of Christ One to Another

*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 symbolizes the spreading of the light of Jesus from one life to another.

Hold a lighted candle upright when giving light to another: “Bow” the unlit candle toward the one that is lit.

Please extinguish candles after the final stanza of Silent Night.

### Hymn - 122 (seated)

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.”

### *Silent Night, Holy Night*

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.”

### \*\*Charge and Blessing

Rev. VanderWoude

**Thank you to John Kim and Neil Danzig for operating the sound board this evening!**  
**Thank you to Kevin Wilson for operating the cameras!**

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*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 any time. Thank you for your gift!.*

*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. Donations to the Christmas Joy offering may be put in the envelope found in the bulletin.*

## Love Has Come

110

Capo 3: (D)

F

(Bm7)

Dm7

(Em7)

Gm7

(A)

C



1 Love has come: a light in the dark - ness!  
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der.  
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us!

(D) (Bm7) (Em) (A7) (D)  
 F Dm7 Gm C7 F



Love shines forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all  
 Love is God now a - sleep in the hay. See the  
 Love is life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is

(A) (D) (Bm) (D) (A) (G) (D)  
 C F Dm F C B♭ F



heav - en has come to pro - claim it; hear how their song of  
 glow in the eyes of his moth - er; what is the name her  
 Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our

(Em7) (F♯7) (G) (A) (Bm) (A7)  
 Gm7 A7 B♭ C Dm C7



joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a  
 heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she  
 hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of

(D) (A) (G) (A) (D) (A) (A7) (Dsus) (D)  
 F C B♭ C F C C7 Fsus F



Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
 whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el.  
 Christ-mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Here is a chance to sing a familiar French carol tune with new words, the most important clearly being "Love." The senses "seen and heard" (as in Acts 4:20 and elsewhere) organize the first two stanzas, while the third holds the summary statement: "Love is the gift of Christmas."

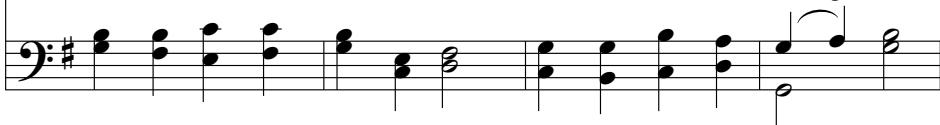
## Gentle Mary Laid Her Child 146



2 An - gels sang a - bout his birth; wise men sought and found him;  
 3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child low - ly in a man - ger;



there he lay, the un - de - filed, to the world a strang - er.  
 heav-en's star shone bright-ly forth, glo - ry all a - round him.  
 he is still the un - de - filed, but no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Sav - ior?  
 Shep-herds saw the won-drous sight, heard the an-gels sing - ing;  
 Son of God, of hum - ble birth, beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race who have found his fa - vor.  
 all the plains were lit that night; all the hills were ring - ing.  
 praise his name in all the earth; hail the King of glo - ry!



This 20th-century Christmas text by an English-born Canadian clergyman was originally a poem called "The Manger Prince." It gains a certain antique flavor by being set to a late medieval song associated with springtime. (The tune name means "The flowering time is near.")

## 143 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er  
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your  
 3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions  
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,

all the earth; you, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing;  
 beam a - far; seek the great de - sire of na - tions;  
 Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 yon - der shines the in - fant light:  
 you have seen his na - tal star:  
 to the e - ter - nal Three in One:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king!

This familiar carol was first published as a poem in the Christmas Eve 1816 issue of a newspaper the author edited in Sheffield, England. The tune name celebrates the location of a prominent Presbyterian Church in London, sometimes called the "Presbyterian cathedral."