



Candlelight Worship Christmas Eve 2021 ~ 10:00 pm

Welcome to Worship this Holy Night

We gather together to celebrate Jesus' birth.
We will share in the worship by singing carols,
offering prayers and in lighting our candles.

Your parts in worship are printed in **bold print**.

We pray that with shepherds of long ago that you may hear afresh the good news of Jesus' birth and with the joy of the angel chorus offer God your worship.

We invite you to join in worship at 11:00 a.m. on Sundays.

Trinity Chimes

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.

Prelude

*Away in A Manger
O Holy Night*

Organ

arr. David Lasky
Adolphe C. Adam/arr. Diane Bish

The Lighting of the Christ Candle – *Celebrating the Light*

Choir: *End our darkness, end our night, Jesus, the light of the world.
Bring to earth God's heavenly light, Jesus, the light of the world.*

Leader: *Christmas is a time to celebrate.*

People: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Leader: *We celebrate that joy that is in Christ Jesus.*

People: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Leader: *We proclaim a victory that is stronger than any defeat.*

People: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Leader: *We proclaim a peace that is stronger than any conflict.*

People: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Leader: *We proclaim a freedom that is stronger than any bondage.*

People: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Lighting the Christ Candle

Choir: *Jesus, the light of the world.*

People singing:

(Sing twice)



We'll walk in the light, beau-ti - ful
light, come, where the dew-drops of mer-cy shine
bright, O, shine all a-round us by day and by
night, Je - sus, the light of the world.

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Choir: *O, Jesus, the light of the world. Light of the world.*
Closing Prayer

Welcome

Please sign and pass the Friendship Record pads during this time.

Steve Wilson

Call to Worship

There is good news of great joy for all! Our Savior is born: the Messiah, the Lord.

*Christmas Carol of Praise

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Please join in singing

**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!**

**True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,
lo, He shuns not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, 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, all Glory 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 this happy morning,
Jesus to Thee be all glory giv'n;
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!**

Words: John Francis Wade/trans. Frederick Oakeley
Music: John Francis Wade/Harm. *The English Hymnal*

*Prayer for This Holy Night

Steve Crocco

Prayer of Confession

Steve Crocco

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ You came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. we have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less.

...silent prayer

Merciful God, forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of Your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.

Declaration of Pardon

Christ our Savior gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from our sin and claim us as God's own people. Believe the good news, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Alleluia! Amen.

*Act of Praise

Congregation Singing, See Bulletin Page 7

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

arr. David Willcocks

Prayer for Illumination

Steve Wilson

The Prophet's Proclamation - Isaiah 9:2-7

Pew Bible, OT page 638

Christmas Carol

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

See Bulletin Page 9 Hymnal, No. 48

The Christmas Story - Luke 2:1-14

Jan Hepler
Pew Bible, NT, Page 58

*Christmas Carol

Angels We Have Heard on High

See Bulletin Page 10 Hymnal, No. 23

The Christmas Story - Luke 2:15-20

Pew Bible, NT, Page 58

Presentation of Our Gifts in Thanksgiving for the Christ Child

Call to Offering

Steve Crocco

Prayer of Dedication

God of every good and perfect gift, we thank You for Your greatest gift, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. In this season when so many gifts are given and received, we pray that You will receive the gifts we offer now. Use them according to Your purposes, bringing Your good news of great joy to all people; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

A Choral Offering

Chancel Choir

Bring A Torch Jeanette, Isabella

arr. John Rutter

*Bring a torch, Jeannette, Isabella! Bring a torch, to the cradle run!
It is Jesus, good folk of the village, Christ is born and Mary's calling, Ah!
Beautiful is the Mother! Ah! Beautiful is her Son.*

*It is wrong when the Child is sleeping, it is wrong to talk so loud.
Silence, all, as you gather around, lest your noise should waken Jesus: Hush!
See how fast He slumbers; Hush! See how fast He sleeps!*

*Softly to the little stable, softly for a moment come!
Look and see how charming is Jesus, how He is fair,
His cheeks are rosy! Hush! See how the Child is sleeping; Hush!
See how He smiles in dreams!*

-John Rutter

Ministry of Music
Christmas Night

Chancel Choir
John Rutter

*Softly through the winter's darkness shines a light,
clear and still in Bethlehem on Christmas Night
Round the stable where a virgin mother mild watches over Jesus Christ the holy child.
Shepherds kneel in adoration by His bed; seraphim in glory hover round His head.
Wisemen guided by the leading of a star, bring him gifts of precious treasure from afar.*

*Choirs of angels sing to greet His wondrous birth:
Christ our Lord in human form comes down to earth.
"Glory to God in highest heaven" their joyful strain:
"Peace on earth, goodwill to men" the glad refrain.*

*Lullaby! The child lies sleeping: sing lullaby!
Safe in Mary's tender keeping sing lullaby!
Guardian angels keep their watch till break of day:
Lullaby! Sweet Jesus sleeps among the hay.*

*Alleluia! Let the earth rejoice today! Christ is born to take our sins and guilt away.
Praise the Lord who sent Him down from heaven above:
Holy infant, born of God the Father's love.
—John Rutter*

Lighting of the Candles

(when lighting the candles, please tip only unlit candles)

Christmas Carol

Silent Night, Holy Night

Please join in singing

**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, Heavenly 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: Joseph Mohr/trans. John Freeman Young
Music: Franz Xaver Gruber

Acclamation (adapted from Howard Thurman)

We light candles this Christmas.

Candles of joy, despite all sadness,

Candles of hope where despair keeps watch.

Candles of courage for fears ever present,

Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,

Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,

Candles of love to inspire all our living,

Candles that will burn all the year long.

(Please extinguish candles following the Acclamation.)

*Christmas Carol

Joy to the World!

Hymnal, No.40

**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.**

**Joy to the world! the Savior reigns: Let us our 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: Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

Music: *ANTIOCH* – attr. George Frederick Handel/arr. Lowell Mason

*Blessing

Steve Wilson

Postlude

Organ

Noel Fanfares (a medley)

(from *A Christmas Suite, Op. 63*) arr. Charles Callahan

Joy to the World, Hymnal 40

Angels We have Heard on High, Hymnal 23

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come, Hymnal 54

WE WELCOME YOU TO WORSHIP ON THIS HOLY NIGHT

The Oakmont Presbyterian Church family welcomes you. It is our hope that you will worship with us again. We invite you to participate in the life and ministry of this community of faith.

Please exercise caution with the candles. You will find a basket in the vestibules where you may place your extinguished candles after worship.

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Hymns taken from:

- *The Presbyterian Hymnal – Hymns, Psalms and Spiritual Songs*, 1990 Westminster/John Knox Press
- *The Hymnbook – Presbyterian Church in the United States*

Our Heartfelt Thanks to the **Worship Arts Team** (Adele Selinger, coordinator) for the design and implementation of Advent and Christmas appointments! We also thank Ann Buechli and Dixie Anderson for ordering and arranging the poinsettias.

Thank you to those who purchased poinsettias:

Sam and Dixie Anderson
Ann and Hank Buechli
Susan and Cliff Buell
Audrey and Tom Clifton
Robbie Connell
Marsha and Brett Cuckler
Rob Erdeljac
Lin and Don Ewing
Sue Gibbon
Robin Gourley
Jeanne and John Hackworth
Diane Harrell
Susan Kabazie

Polly and Nick Kokales
Carla Lowman
the Massack Family
Shane Michael
Judy Murray
Sharon Myers
Kathy Samson
Susan Sanford
Dot and Steve Shreve
Nancy Sloan
Carol Swift
Steve Wilson and Diane Rudolph



Thank you to all in our church family
for your expressions of kindness and love.

Merry Christmas!

The OPC Staff

Angie, Bert, Buster, Marge, Maureen, Michael, Ron, Ronnie, Steve C, Steve W, Tracy

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

English carol, 18th century

GOD REST YOU MERRY: Irregular, with Refrain
English melody, 18th century
Har. in *Christmas Carols Old and New*, 1871

1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle-men, Let noth - ing you dis - may,
2. From God our heaven - ly Fa - ther A bless - ed an - gel came;
3. "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let noth - ing you af - fright,
4. Now to the Lord sing prais - es, All you with - in this place,

Re - mem - ber Christ our Sav - iour Was born on Christ - mas Day;
And un - to cer - tain shep - herds Brought ti - dings of the same;
This day is born a Sav - iour Of a pure Vir - gin bright,
And with true love and broth - er - hood Each oth - er now em - brace;

To save us all from Sa - tan's power When we were gone a - stray.
How that in Beth - le - hem was born The Son of God by name.
To free all those who trust in Him From Sa - tan's power and might."
This ho - ly tide of Christ - mas All oth - ers doth de - face.

REFRAIN

O ti - dings of com - fort and joy, Com - fort and joy;

O ti - dings of com - fort and joy. A - MEN.

CHRISTMASTIDE AT OPC



Dec 26 - First Sunday of Christmas

11:00 am – Traditional worship service

The Word Became Flesh and Dwelt Among Us

- Rev. Wilson preaching

Sharing in the Ministry of Music:

David Hammond, guest baritone and Michael Frank, organ/piano

Jan 2 - Epiphany Sunday

11:00 am – *The Magi Model for Spiritual Discovery* – Rev. Wilson preaching.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Sharing in the Ministry of Music: Rev. Dr. J. Richard Szeremany, guest organist.

Jan 9 - Baptism of the Lord

11:00 am – *When Heaven Was Opened* - Rev. Wilson preaching

Ordination/Installation of Elders and Deacons

The Chancel Choir returns to share in the Ministry of Music.

OPC STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Wilson	Senior Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Stephen Crocco	Associate Pastor
Michael P. Frank, III	Director of Music Ministries/Organist
Ronnie Bailey	Education Director for Children and Youth
Maureen Stecik	Program Staff Assistant
Buster Harper	Custodian
Tracy Messenger	Financial Secretary of Accounting
Marge Kuhn	Financial Secretary of Contributions
Roberta Erickson	Handbell Choir Director
Ron Burkert	AV Team Coordinator

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Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN' ROS' 7.6.7.6.6.7.6

German carol, 15th century
 Trans. Theodore Baker (1851-1934)
 Alt. *Rejoice in the Lord*, 1985

*Alte Catholische Geistliche
 Kirchengesäng*, Cologne, 1599
 Arr. Michael Praetorius, 1609

1. Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing From ten-der stem hath sprung,
 2. I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in mind,

Of Jes-se's lin-eage com - ing, By faith - ful proph - ets sung.
 With Ma - ry we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er kind.

It came a flower-et bright, A - mid the cold of
 To show God's love a - right She bore for us a

win - ter, When half spent was the night.
 Sav - ior, When half spent was the night.
 was the

Angels We Have Heard on High

23

French carol

GLORIA 7.7.7.7 with refrain

French carol

Trans. James Chadwick (1813-1882); alt.

Arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937

1. An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
3. Come to Beth-le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

And the moun-tains in re-ply Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heaven - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain
Glo - ri - a
in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glo - ri - a
ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

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