



## Candlelight Worship Christmas Eve 2023 ~ 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.

The Congregation is invited to participate in the texts printed in **bold print**,  
as well in singing the Christmas Carols.  
The *Leader* parts are printed in *Italic print*.

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

Trinity Chimes

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

Prelude

*There's a Song in the Air* (quoting five additional Carol fragments)

Organ

arr. Ron Schmoltze

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

Tim Spring/Steve Crocco

*Leader 1: Our Advent Journey is complete. We have arrived to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Christ, and to consider with Christians all over the globe what His coming means to the world. Through Advent, we have lit the four blue candles to symbolize the hope Jesus brings, the love God expresses in Jesus, the peace Jesus offers, and the joy Jesus' birth brings to us and the whole world. Now, God is with us, in the form of the infant child of Bethlehem.*

*Leader 2: from Isaiah 7:14*

*Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and you shall name Him Emmanuel.*

*Leader 1: As we now light the Christ Candle, [pause for lighting] God is with us! Christ is come! Because of His presence, we are blessed. Let us each be thankful for that night long ago when the angels sang, when the shepherds worshipped, when the cattle lowed, when our Savior was born.*

*Leader 2: Let us pray together:*

**People: God of hope love, peace and joy, we give You thanks on this night for coming to be among us! The gift of this baby at Bethlehem is Your answer to our alienation; the incarnation of the divine is Your response to our unrest, our hatred, our sorrow. Tonight, we celebrate Hope, we share Your Love, we celebrate Peace and we are filled with Your Joy! Thank you for giving the gift of Your Son to be our Emmanuel – God with us! Amen.**

\*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

Welcome

Candlelight Worship

Call to Confession

Tim Spring

*The Light of Christ shines in the shadows. The Prince of Peace breaks the yoke of our burden. With joy we turn to Almighty God, whose justice and righteousness never fail, and gladly confess our sin...*

Prayer of Confession

**God-with-us, we confess that we have not embraced Your love. We confess that we fail to live in Your light. When You come to us with grace, we say there is no room for You. When You shine on us with Your glory, we turn away in fear.**

.....time for silent personal confession

**Loving God, forgive us. Take away the burden of our sin and teach us the song of salvation, good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Declaration of Forgiveness

*Emmanuel did not come into this world to condemn, but to save.*

**God does not come to imprison us, but to set us free.**

*Through this abundant love, we are forgiven!*

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

\*Act of Praise

using tune: *LASST UNS ERFREUEN*

**His name is called Emmanuel! More wonderful than words can tell.  
God is with us! Alleluia!  
Born in our darkness, He is light. Born in our weakness, He is might.  
God is with us! Alleluia! God is with us! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Prayer for Illumination Tim Spring

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 6

The Christmas Story according to Luke 2:1-14 Barbara Bolls

\*Christmas Carol *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* See page 8; *Hymnal*, No. 31

The Christmas Story according to Matthew 1:18-25 Janice French

\*Christmas Carol *In the Bleak Midwinter* See page 9; *Hymnal*, No. 36

Presentation of Our Gifts in Thanksgiving for the Christ Child

Call to Offering and Prayer of Dedication Tim Spring

A Choral Offering Chancel Choir  
arr. Mack Wilberg

*The First Nowell*

*The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell! Born is the King of Israel.*

*They looked up and saw a star shining in the East beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell! Born is the King of Israel.*

*Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heav'nly Lord  
That hath made heav'n and earth of nought, and with His blood mankind hath bought.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell! Born is the King of Israel.*

The Christmas Message *Emmanuel, God With Us* Tim Spring

Ministry of Music Chancel Choir  
K. Lee Scott

*Chill of the Nightfall*

*Chill of the nightfall, lamps in the windows, letting their light fall clear on the snow;  
Bitter December bids us remember Christ in the stable long, long ago.*

*Silence of midnight, voices of angels, singing to bid night yield to the dawn;  
Darkness is ended, sinners befriended, where in the stable Jesus is born.*

*Splendor of starlight high on the hillside, faint is the far light burning below;  
Kneeling before Him shepherds adore Him, Christ in the stable long, long ago.*

*Glory of day break! Sorrows and shadows, suddenly they break forth into morn;  
Sing out and tell now all shall be well now, for in the stable Jesus is born!*

-Timothy Dudley-Smith

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

A Christmas Prayer:

(Author, unknown)

*Help us to listen like the shepherds;*

**Rejoice like the angels;**

*Seek like the wise men;*

**Believe like Mary and Joseph;**

*And live all year long with the peace, joy and the love Christ came to give.*

**Amen.**

(please extinguish candles following the prayer)

\*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

Tim Spring

Postlude

Organ

Variation on *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

*MENDELSSOHN*/arr. Robert J. Powell



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

Merry Christmas!

The OPC Staff

Bert, Marge, Maureen, Michael, Ron, Ronnie, Steve, Tim and Tracy

# Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

*Stanza 1: All in Harmony*

*Stanza 2: All in Harmony*

*Stanza 3: All in Unison*

1. Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath  
2. I - sai - ah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in  
3. This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet - ness fills the

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As men of old have  
mind, With Ma - ry we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er  
air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark - ness ev - 'ry -

sung. It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the  
kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to  
where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and

cold of win - ter, When half spent was the night.  
us a Sav - ior, When half spent was the night.  
death now saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.

Text for Stanza 3 from The Hymnal 1982, © The Church Pension Fund. Used by Permission.

- arr. Michael Burkhardt  
Morningstar Music Publishers

## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN 7.7.7.7 D with refrain

Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

Arr. William Hayman Cummings, 1855

1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King.  
 2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!  
 \*3. Hail the heav - en-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ - teous-ness!

Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
 Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of the vir - gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all He brings, Risen with heal - ing in His wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; Hail the in-car-nate De - i - ty,  
 Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,

With the an - gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.  
 Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us sec - ond birth.

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

\*Descant and alternate harmonization for stanza 3, 32

# In the Bleak Midwinter

36

CRANHAM Irregular

Christina Rossetti, c. 1872; alt.

Gustav Theodore Holst, 1906

1. In the bleak mid - win - ter, Frost - y wind made moan,  
2. Our God, heaven can - not hold Him, Nor earth sus - tain;  
3. An - gels and arch - an - gels May have gath - ered there,  
4. What can I give Him, Poor as I am?

Earth stood hard as i - ron, Wa - ter like a stone;  
Heaven and earth shall flee a - way When He comes to reign:  
Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim Thronged the air;  
If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

Snow had fall - en, snow on snow, Snow on snow,  
In the bleak mid - win - ter A sta - ble - place suf - ficed  
But His moth - er on - ly, In her maid - en bliss,  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;

In the bleak mid - win - ter, Long a - go.  
The Lord God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.  
Wor - shiped the be - lov - ed With a kiss.  
Yet what I can I give Him: Give my heart.



## 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

**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

Dixie and Sam Anderson	Rob Erdeljac
Ruth Anthony	Sue Gibbon
Margie Bachman	Wendy Hudack
Carol Baker and Ian Campbell	Susan and Jack Kabazie
Betler Family	Gail Latimer
Debbie Blair	Nevin Moore
Ann and Hank Buechli	Judy Murray
Susan and Cliff Buell	Jane Park
Audrey and Tom Clifton	Sue Sanford
Robbie Connell	Kathy Samson
Marsha and Brett Cuckler	Nancy Sloan

### **CHRISTMASTIDE**

**DEC 31** - 8:30 am and 11:00 am, 1st Sunday of Christmas

Rev. Debbie Blair, preaching

11:00 am Ministry of Music - Jamie Fair, soloist

**JAN 7** - 8:30 am and 11:00 am, Epiphany Sunday and Communion

Rev. Tim Spring preaching

11:00 am Ministry of Music – The Chancel Choir

**OPC STAFF**

The Rev. Dr. Tim E. Spring	Interim 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
Tracy Messenger	Financial Secretary of Accounting
Marge Kuhn	Financial Secretary of Contributions
Roberta Erickson	Handbell Choir Director
Ron Burkert	AV Team Coordinator
The Rev. Dr. Steve Wilson	Honorably Retired Pastor Emeritus

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