



December 24, 2020

balmoral presbyterian church

service of worship

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



5:00pm



**"I need to remember how much
my set ideas get in my way... and
learn to let go of my bright ideas about God
so that my eyes are open to the God who is."**

Barbara Brown Taylor

Introit & Chiming of the Hour

"O Come O Come Emmanuel"

arr. Larry & Carla Sue

Bells of Balmoral

Prelude

"Away in a Manger"

arr Erich Katz

Linda Warren, Leiza Collins, Fran Addicott, recorders

Call to Worship

Rev. Carla Meisterman

One: The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light!

ALL: Those who live in a land of deep darkness, on them the light has shined.

One: For a child is born to us, a son is given to us!

ALL: His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Almighty God, Prince of Peace!

Come, let us adore him!



Hymn 133

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

ADESTE FIDELES

1. 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!
[Refrain]

Refrain:
 O come, let us adore him;
 O come, let us adore him;
 O come, let us adore him,
 Christ, the Lord!

2. True God from true God,
 Light from light eternal,
 born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
 very God, begotten, not created!
[Refrain]

3. Sing, choirs of angels;
 sing in exultation;
 sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
 Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
[Refrain]

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
 born this happy morning;
 Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
 Word of the Father,
 now in flesh appearing!
[Refrain]

Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Carla Meisterman

Scripture

Isaiah 60:1-2 and Luke 1:78-79

Rev. Carla Meisterman

Homily

“The God Who Is”

Rev. Carla Meisterman

Hymn 314 *verses 1, 2 & 3*

“Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness”
(words and music next page)

CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT




1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
 2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
 3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own.
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread.



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Lighting A Candle of Hope¹

Rev. Carla Meisterman


One Voice: Everything done in this world is done by hope. Happy is the one who hopes in God.

All Voices: We hope for the pandemic to end, for prejudice and racism to cease.
 We hope for our future. May our actions reflect our hope, never our fear.

Hymn 467 *verses 1, 3 & 5*

"Give Us Light"

JYOTHI DHO



1 Give us light: give us light: give us light. O Lord.
 3 Grant us peace: grant us peace: grant us peace. O Lord.
 5 Give us grace: give us grace: give us grace. O Lord.



Lighting A Candle of Peace²

One Voice: Peace is the first thing the angels sang. Peace is the very breath of Christ.

All Voices: We are not at peace with ourselves because we are not at peace with our God. We believe Christ comes to us to dwell in us and be our peace.

HYMN 753

"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

**Make me a channel of Your peace
Where there is hatred, let me bring Your love
Where there is injury, Your pardon Lord
And where there's doubt, true faith in You.**

**Oh Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul.**

**Make me a channel of Your peace
Where there is hatred, let me bring Your love
Where there is injury, Your pardon Lord
And where there's doubt, true faith in You.**

Lighting the Candle of Joy³

One Voice: Joy is the serious business of heaven. Joy is the presence of God!

**All Voices: When we do things from our soul, we feel a river moving in us, a joy.
Joy is prayer. Joy is strength. Joy is a well woven net of love. We choose joy.**

Hymn 145 verses 1 & 3

"What Child Is This"

GREENSLEEVES

**1. 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!**

**3. 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.
Raise, raise the song on high.
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, Joy, for Christ is born,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!**

Lighting the Candle of Love⁴

Rev. Carla Meisterman

One Voice: Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

All Voices: Love does not delight in evil but rejoices in truth. Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Children of God love.

**Musical Offering**

"Boy Child of Mary"
Linda Warren, Fran Addicott

An African Malawi tune, arr. Hal Hopson

Prayers of the People

Rev. Carla Meisterman

Musical Offering

"Song of Emmanuel"

Terry Star

Emily and Leiza Collins, vocalists; Linda Warren and Fran Addicott, recorders;
Beverly Hooker, glockenspiel, Ted Pearson, guitar; John Gilmer, cello

Lighting the Christ Candle

One Voice: God so loved the world, God came to us as a baby boy, God in human flesh.

All Voices: **The Living Word became flesh to dwell among us. Perfectly human.**

Perfectly divine. For unto us a child is born. Unto us a child is given.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel! Shine forth within us!

Musical Offering

"The People Who Walked in Darkness"

Pepper Choplin

(previously recorded and sung by the Balmoral Presbyterian Choir)

The Light of Christ

One: We light candles to remind us that Christ dwells in us.

ALL: The Christ light shines through all of us when we forgive one another, pray for our enemies, feed and clothe the poor, welcome the stranger, provide clean water to those who thirst, when we choose concern over indifference, love over hate and compassion over judgment. The light of Christ is God who comes to dwell in us.

Invitation to Let Our Light Shine

Rev. Carla Meisterman

We invite you to light your at-home candle.

Hymn

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

STILLE NACHT

**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.**

**Hymn**

“Joy to the World!”

**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.**

***Benediction and Blessing**

Rev. Carla Meisterman

Postlude

**“On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”
Linda Warren, Organist**

Sussex Carol

Permission to stream the music and print words and music in this service obtained from
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¹ Candle of Hope: Martin Luther King, Jr.; Psalm 146:5; Nelson Mandela

² Candle of Peace: John Keble, Thomas Merton

³ Candle of Joy: C.S. Lewis; Rumi

⁴ Candle of Love: I Corinthians 13:4,6-7





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presbyterian
church**

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church staff

carla meisterman
pastor

anne hagler
parish associate

john gilmer
music director

leiza collins
pianist

lynn ward
bell choir

**sharon allen &
 celia kaplan**
nursery attendants



Lighting up Memphis

in Honor of...

Hudson Gray DeLoach

by Becky DeLoach

David Dawson

**Andrew, Emily, Eleanor, Vivian, and Clara
Dawson**

Dick Vosburg

Fran Shannon

Barry Dotson

by Kay & Scott Dawson

Dick & Shirley Vosburg

Dave & Glenda Ellis

Lisa Koffman

Bruce & Carla Meisterman

Marcia Boyd

Charleen Lawrence

Linda Joplin

by Susie Knight

Laurel Gilmer & Patrick Boyle

Emily & Britain Miethe

Max & Sam Willner

The Balmoral Presbyterian Church Choir

The Balmoral Presbyterian Church Bell Choir

by John Gilmer

Bob & Do Kaiser

**Our grandchildren Henry & Harrison Seessel
and Jack Shannon**

by Phil & Fran Shannon

Cathy and Clinton Bailey

Karen Pilkington

Lynn Ward

Janie and Ted Pearson

by Ruby Jean Powell

Our grandchildren

Sam & Julia Lashley

by Stephanie & Gordon Brigman

**John Gilmer and Leiza Collins for their
dedication to the beautiful music of**

Balmoral

by Robin Ashworth

Lucy Ann & Adam Archibald

Kyle, Matt, Luke Needham

Rebecca, Olivia, Maggie and

Ella Archibald

Tewan Fair

by Janie & Ted Pearson

Ruby Jean Powell

Kathy Singleton

Dick Vosburg

Barry Dotson

John Gilmer

Leiza Collins

Carla Meisterman

Anne Hagler

by Cathy & Clinton Bailey

The BPC Virtual Worship

Planning team of

Rev. Carla Meisterman,

Rev. Anne Hagler, John Gilmer,

Leiza Collins, Thomas Bergstig,

**Cliff Gurlen, Kristen Gurlen, plus the 2
dozen or so musical members of the
BPC Choir and Bells of Balmoral who
have inspired and comforted us all**

since March.

by Kathy Singleton





Lighting up Memphis

in Memory of...

Mark E. Collins
Evelyn Fulghum
Hilda Christian
by Leiza Collins

Nancy & Tom Berry
by Fran & Phil Shannon

John Jones
Jim Stockdale
Patsy Collins
by Cathy & Clinton Bailey

Nancy Berry
Claire Fox
Cecil Rousseau
Bill Odom
Ray Rowland
John Jones
Jim Stockdale
Patsy Collins
by Janice & Scott Hill

John Jones
by Cheryl Webb

John William Dutcher
Mr. & Mrs. William Riley
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas B. Dutcher, Sr
by Terry Balton

Bill & Miriam Gilmer
Joan Kelly
Nancy Berry
Claire Fox
Ray Rowland
Cecil Rousseau
Jim Stockdale
Patsy Collins
by John Gilmer

Scott Dotson
Helen Blay
by Barry Dotson

Leon Powell
Dorothy Powell
by Ruby Jean Powell

Bailey Pearson
Maxine, L.A. and Al Dick
Horace and Brooksie
Pearson
Mike Fair
by Janie & Ted Pearson

Betty Allshouse
Frank VanNortwick
Arlene VanNortwick
by Robin & John VanNortwick



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MADE TO THE METROPOLITAN INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION TO ASSIST
DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE WITH THEIR UTILITY BILLS THIS WINTER.**