

Tryon Presbyterian Church

430 Harmon Field Road ~ Tryon, North Carolina

December 24, 2022 - 7:00 pm

Christmas Eve Service

Our Mission Statement:

To be and make disciples of Jesus Christ, who love God and their neighbor.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD OF GOD

PRELUDE

“’Twas in the Moon of Wintertime”

Makena James

by John Rutter arr. by Makena James

WELCOME

Dr. Allan Purtill

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Tonight, we light the Christ Candle. John 1:1–5 says this about the light of the world: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

In him was life, and that life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

(Lighting of the Christ Candle)

This fulfills the prophecy from Isaiah 60:1–3, which also speaks of the coming light of the world:

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises up on you.

Come, Lord Jesus, our light and our salvation.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

†HYMN

“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”

Hymn Number 118

Tune: CHRISTMAS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light. May we allow the light of your truth to shine upon our hearts as we acknowledge our sins before you, and having confessed may we allow the light of your grace to heal and forgive us.

SILENT PRAYERS AND PERSONAL CONFESSION

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

†GLORIA PATRI

“Glory Be to the Father”

Hymnal Number 581

Tune: GLORIA PATRI

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Dr. Purtill

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Dr. Charles Drawdy

God of all ages, in the birth of Christ your boundless love for your people shattered the power of darkness. Be born in us with that same love and light, that our song may blend with all the choirs of heaven and earth to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 9:2-7 (NRSV)

Pew Bible, Old Testament page 638

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

†SOLO

“May, Did You Know?”

Rita Stobbe

arr. Jack Schrader

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Dr. Purtill

Luke 2:1-14 (NRSV)

Pew Bible, New Testament page 58

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

Dr. Purtil

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

God of all times and places, we gather at your table of grace to recall your vision of hope for all people and for your world. . .

We praise your name and join the unending hymn of the company of heaven:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We remember Jesus, the One who blazed a new and risky path of extravagant generosity. . .

In remembrance of the mighty act of salvation in Christ, we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice as we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Come to us, life-giving Spirit of God. Bless us, these gifts, that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ. Through your Son Jesus Christ who taught us to pray:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Dr. Purtil

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

THE PRAYER OF RESPONSE

†LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

†HYMN

“Silent Night, Holy Night!”

Hymn Number 122

Tune: STILLE NACHT

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

“God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen”

Makena James

by John Rutter

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†*The congregation is invited to stand. Those who wish to remain seated are welcome to do so.*

