

# First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem



# Christmas Eve

## **Communion Service 11:00 p.m.**

December 24, 2021

## **WE GATHER**

## RINGING OF THE CHIMES

## PRELUDE Brightest and Best

setting F. Peeters

## CAROL

#44

## O Little Town of Bethlehem

## ST. LOUIS

1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless  
sleep  
The silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

**3** How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming,  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him  
still,  
The dear Christ enters in.

**2** For Christ is born of Mary,  
And gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars together  
Proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the King,  
And peace to men on earth!

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel!

## WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

## LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

Joanne Kelhart

Leader: In God's house, there is hope;

**People: for God loves us too much to leave us just as we are.**

Leader: In God's house, there is peace;

**People: for all that separates us from God is overcome.**

Leader: In God's house, there is joy;

**People: for God intends us not just to be alive, but to have abundant life in Christ.**

Leader: In God's house, there is love;

**People: for God is love, and whoever abides in love, abides in God.**

Leader: In the center of our hope, of our peace, of our joy, of our love, is God;

**People: for God came to this earth to dwell with us.**

Leader: So tonight we light the Christ Candle, for in Christ God has come among us and stays with us always.

**People: Tonight, we are all welcomed home.**

## ADVENT RESPONSE

#9

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

verse 1

VENI EMMANUEL

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

**Refrain:**

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O  
Israel.

## WE CONFESS

## CALL TO CONFESSON

## PRAYER OF CONFESSON

**Holy God, you throw open the door and invite us into relationship, day in and day out. But instead of running towards you, we tiptoe around the edges of our faith, uncertain if we will risk truly coming in. We struggle to believe that a love so unfettered, so unfiltered, could be for us. Forgive us for the ways in which we hold back from deeper connection with you or withhold your radical love from others. Open our ears not just to hear your invitation, but to trust that its good news comes even and especially for us.**

## SILENT CONFESSON

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## WE LISTEN

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

## FIRST READING Luke 2:1-7

Joanne Kelhart

Leader: The word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

## SPECIAL MUSIC Elevation sur le Noel

Alexander Guilmant

SECOND READING Luke 2:8-20

Joanne Kelhart

Leader: The word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

SERMON

"Coming Home"

The Rev. J.C. Austin

***WE RESPOND***

HYMN

#53

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?

**Refrain:**

This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels  
sing;  
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

**2** Why lies He in such mean estate,  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading. (Refrain)

**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.  
(Refrain)

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Call to Give

Offertory

Swiss Noel

Claude D'acquin

Offertory Response

#36

In the Bleak Midwinter

verse 4

CRANHAM

**4** What can I give Him,  
Poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd,  
I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man,  
I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give Him:  
Give my heart.

WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

## The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

## Words of Institution

## Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Music during Communion Song of Peace

Eric Thiman

## CANDLE LIGHTING

Silent Night

verses 1, 3, & 4

#60

STILLE NACHT

**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.

**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!

**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.

## BENEDICTION

## SENDING HYMN

See Amid the Winter's Snow

#51

HUMILITY

**1** See amid the winter's snow,  
Born for us on earth below,  
See, the gentle Lamb appears,  
Promised from eternal years.

**2** Say, you holy shepherds, say,  
Tell your joyful news today.  
Why have you now left your sheep  
On the lonely mountain steep?  
(Refrain)

**Refrain:**  
Hail! that ever-blessed morn,  
Hail redemption's happy dawn,  
Sing through all Jerusalem:  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

**3** "As we watched at dead of night,  
There appeared a wondrous light;  
Angels singing 'Peace on earth'  
Told us of the Savior's birth."  
(Refrain)

## POSTLUDE Postlude on "ANTIOCH"

Richard Purvis

David Macbeth, Organ