

# First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem



## Digital Christmas Eve Communion Service 11:00 p.m.

**December 24, 2020**

### ***WE GATHER***

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

PRELUDE "O Holy Night"

Adolphe Adam

Dr. Aaron Patterson, Saxophone

LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

ADVENT RESPONSE

#9

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Verse 1

VENI EMMANUEL

Bryan McClary

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.

CAROL

#44

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

Madison Zahorsky

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.

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!

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.

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!

### ***WE CONFESS***

#### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Gracious and Loving God, on this Christmas Eve we celebrate the coming of your Son Jesus, coming into the world as a light chases away the shadows and gloom of the deepest night. But we confess that we sometimes still fear that the shadows may be stronger; that Christ's light is too dim or too far away for us.**

**Help us to trust in the power of your grace and love, that we may be comforted and strengthened by Christ's light, and share it with others as we love them and you in lives of service.**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***WE LISTEN***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

Leader: The word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

DIVINIUM MYSTERIUM

Rebecca Erhard, Soprano

NEW TESTAMENT Luke 2:1-20

Leader: The word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

SERMON

The Rev. J.C. Austin

"The Place to Be"

***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 "Noel, Nouvelet"

Traditional French Carol/arr. Snell

Hill to Hill Brass Quintet

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 "Gesu Bambino"

Pietro Yon

Dr. Aaron Patterson, Saxophone

## CANDLE LIGHTING

Silent Night

(Verses 1, 3, & 4)

#60

STILLE NACHT

Madison Zahorsky and Bryan McClary

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.

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.

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!

## BENEDICTION

### ***WE ARE SENT***

## SENDING HYMN

See Amid the Winter's Snow

#51

HUMILITY

Madison Zahorsky and Bryan McClary

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

Refrain:

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

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

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 "Hallelujah Chorus"

"Amen" Fugue" from Messiah

George F. Handel

Hill to Hill Brass Quintet, David Macbeth, Organ