First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem
The Longest Night Service
December 15, 2021



RINGING OF THE CHIMES

PRELUDE 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime — French Carol
Amy Chryst, Violin

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PASSING THE PEACE

GATHERING HYMN — #36
In the Bleak Midwinter — CRANHAM

1 In the bleak midwinter,
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter,
Long ago.

2 Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him,
Nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign:
In the bleak midwinter
A stable place sufficed
The Lord God incarnate,
Jesus Christ.

3 Angels and archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air;
But His mother only,
In her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved
With a kiss.

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.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON Psalm 31 (selected verses) Betsy Simpson

MEDITATION The Rev. J.C. Austin

SILENCE FOR CONTEMPLATION

SPECIAL MUSIC Away in a Manger/Normandy Carol arr. Mark Hayes
Amy Chryst, Violin

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE The Rev. Lindsey Altvater Clifton

CANDLELIGHTING RITUAL AND SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

The 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

Reflection on "*Divinum Mysterium*" setting Richard Purvis

SENDING HYMN #309

Of the Father's Love Begotten DIVINIUM MYSTERIUM

1 Of the Father's love begotten,
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore!

2 O ye heights of heaven adore Him;
Angel hosts, His praises sing;
Powers, dominions, bow before Him,
And extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Every voice in concert ring,
Evermore and evermore!

3 Christ, to Thee with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee,
Hymn and chant with high thanksgiving,
And unwearied praises be:
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore!

BENEDICTION

SILENCE FOR CONTEMPLATION

DEPART IN SILENCE