



COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 2023

Verse of the Year

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE | 5:00 PM

(Minister | Congregation)

Carols at the Piano

Marty Alexander

Welcome

Rev. Jamie Lambert

Introit

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing!
Men's Choir

Call to Worship / Invocation

Marcus Dorsey

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.*

Carol 200

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

*It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heav'n's all-gracious King";
the world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.*

*Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world:
above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.*

*And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.*

*For lo, the days are hast'ning on, by prophet bards foretold,
when with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold;
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.*

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-21

This is the Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Prayer of Intercession

Marcus Dorsey

Anthem

There is Faint Music

*There is faint music in the night,
And pale wings fanned by silver flight;
A frosty hill with tender glow
Of countless stars that shine on snow.*

A shelter from the winter storm,
A strawlined manger, safe and warm,
And Mary singing lullabies,
To hush her Baby's sleepy sighs.

Her eyes are fixed upon each face,
Unheeded here is time and space,
Her heart is filled with blinding joy,
For God's own Son her baby Boy!

There is faint music in the night,
And pale wings fanned by silver flight;
A frosty hill with tender glow
Of countless stars that shine on snow.
For God's own Son a baby Boy.

Carol 201

O Little Town of Bethlehem

*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.*

*For Christ is born of Mary;
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.*

*O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth.*

*How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still,
the dear Christ enters in.*

*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.*

Scripture Reading

John 11:17-27

This is the Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon

I Am the Resurrection and the Life
Rev. Jamie Lambert

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.*

Anthem

Candlelight Carol

How do you capture the wind on the water?
How do you count all the stars in the sky?
How do you measure the love of a mother,
Or how can you write down a baby's first cry?

Candlelight angel light, firelight and star glow
Shine on His cradle till breaking of dawn.

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Angels are singing the Christ child is born.

Shepherds and wisemen will kneel and adore Him,
Seraphim round Him their vigil will keep;
Nations proclaim Him their Lord and their Savior,
But Mary will hold Him and sing Him to sleep.

Candlelight angel light, firelight and star glow
Shine on His cradle till breaking of dawn.

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Angels are singing the Christ child is born.

Find Him at Bethlehem laid in a manger;
Christ our Redeemer asleep in the hay.
Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation:
A child with His mother that first Christmas Day.

The Words of Institution

Rev. Jamie Lambert

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

The outer ring is wine. The inner rings are grape juice.

Carol 210

Silent Night! Holy Night!

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,
heav'nly 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!*

Benediction

Postlude

Silent Night! Holy Night!

To Our Visitors

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all our visitors and guests. Pastors, officers, and church members would love to greet you and answer any questions you may have.

You Are Invited!

We are a means-of-grace church. By that, we are saying that we believe God uses certain means to enable Christians to receive the benefits of redemption. Our confessions and catechisms state that there are three principal ordinary means of grace and they are the Word of God, the sacraments, and prayer, and these are elements of public worship. Everything that occurs between the Call To Worship and the Benediction is the most important activity the church does all week. In harmony with that proposition, we are committed to the singing of historic, traditional hymns and psalms and we typically preach through books of the Bible. We would love to have you join us each Sunday for morning and evening worship.

For more information, check us out online at

www.covenantpres.net

Please don't hesitate to email us with any questions at

office@covenantpres.net

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready, from now on, to live for him.

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).
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Church office hours: Monday - Thursday, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM