



PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
OF THE ROSES

Reaching out with Nurturing Love to All

Christmas Eve
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

December 24, 2021
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Worship 7 p.m.

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

**One asterisk signifies the congregation stands if able.
The bold type is spoken by the congregation.*

PRELUDE "Christmas Time is Here" by Vince Guaraldi arr. by Lee Evans
Althea Wright and Sacred Harpist, Anna Maria Mendieta

WELCOME Reverend Dr Cynthia Alloway

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE Bryant family

Reader 1: We watched, we waited, in hope for peace, in joy, with love!

Reader 2: On a night like tonight, our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace was born in a manger! God's greatest gift
to the world! *(light the Christ candle)*

**All: Once we walked in darkness. Now we have seen a great light!
May that light illuminate our hearts and shine in our words and deeds.
May the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love represented by the birth
in Bethlehem this night fill our lives and be part of all that we say and
do. Amen.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: They have heard it announced on the hills, they have seen the star in
the sky. Some are looking up the prophecy, some are studying the skies, but
none deny the special birth.

**All: Some are dancing back to sheepfolds, some await more infor-
mation, others celebrate the news! In a foreign place, in a chilly place,
in a busy unexpected place, a young couple copes with their newborn
child.**

One: At what seems the wrong time, in what seems the wrong place, among
those who seem to be the wrong people, God has decided to bless, to dis-
turb, and to come to us with love. **Let us worship God!**

*CAROL #113 *Angels We Have Heard on High* French Carol, 1860

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 9: 2,6 *The Prophecy* Norm Smith

The people who walked in darkness
 have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
 on them light has shined.
For a child has been born for us,
 a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
 and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

*CAROL #145 (vs 1) *What Child is This?* W.C. Dix, 1871

REFLECTION *The Christmas Spirit* Diane Osten

SACRED HARP Anna Maria Mendieta

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:1-7 *The Night of Wonder* Rev. Lynne Vandercook
In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

SPECIAL MUSIC *O Holy Night* Carol Menke and Anna Maria Mendieta

CHRISTMAS POEM "Amazing Peace" by Maya Angelou Nita Pinney

*CAROL #115 (vs 1) *Away in a Manger* J. Murray, 1887

CHILDREN'S TIME AND SINGING "Fear Not!" Pastor Cindy Alloway
(Children stay with parents)

CAROL #136 *Go, Tell it on the Mountain* African American Spiritual

CAROL #119 (vs 1) *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* C. Wesley, 1739

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:8-20 *Shepherds and the Angels.* Lindsay & Joy Olsen

Reader One: In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven. and on earth peace."

Reader Two: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

Reader One: But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

CAROL #147 (vs 1,5) *The First Nowell* English Carol, 1833

HOMILY *Keeping Christmas* Rev Dr Cindy Alloway

SACRED HARP Anna Maria Mendieta

CHRISTMAS PRAYER (*responsively*): Eddie Seamans

Loving God, help us do what our role models of faith showed us long ago. May we do what Mary did and deeply trust in you; what Joseph did and courageously ignore scorn to accomplish your will; what the Wise Men did and faithfully go to worship you. And help us always do as the shepherds did - stop the busyness of life, drop all the distractions, and follow your light in order to praise and glorify you. We thank you for the gift of Jesus Christ. Help us imitate his Prince of Peace Way of being in this world and with one another, as we pray the prayer he taught us, saying:

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 GIVING OF THE LIGHT John 1:1-5 Rev. Dr Cindy Alloway

(Please form a large circle around the sanctuary and hold your candle straight up as the light from the Christ Candle is passed to you.

*After **Joy to the World**, please extinguish your candle before moving and place in basket as you exit.)*

*CAROL #122 *Silent Night, Holy Night*

F. Gruber, 1818

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,
heavenly 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.

*CAROL #134 (vs 1) *Joy to the World*

attr. George F. Handel, 1742

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing!

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Joy to the World”

by G.F. Handel arr. by F. Bock



*The Flowers tonight are provided by the Maxwell Family
in memory of their beloved Luu Maxwell.*

Join us for cocoa and cookies in Bowen Hall after the service.
(Please place the leftover candles in the baskets as you exit.)

**Thank you to our Interim Music Director, Linda Burille
Accompanist, Althea Wright, Sacred Harpist, Anna Maria Mendieta
and Soloist, Carol Menke.**

*We serve our local community in many ways. Please consider donating to our
outreach programs to feed the hungry, provide space for the elderly and
reach out with nurturing love to all. Donations can be placed in the basket at
the entrance to the church.*

Thank you, God bless you, and Merry Christmas!

We invite you to listen to our radio program on Sundays at 7:30am on KSRO
103.5 FM or anytime to our podcast at KSRO.com weekend programs.

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