

# **First Presbyterian Church**

149 Broad Street

Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111

Church: (716) 692-1319

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service

Come, Worship the Lord, Our God

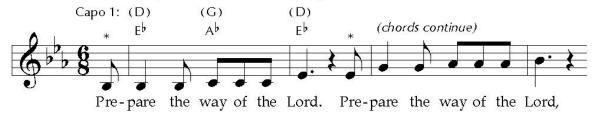
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December 24, 2024 4:00pm

**PRELUDE** 

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** 

# Prepare the Way of the Lord 95





### **ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING**

Choral Response: #155 "Raise a Song of Gladness"

**JUBILATE DEO** 

# 155 Raise a Song of Gladness



#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

With eyes wide open and our ears on edge,

we look for shepherds and listen for the songs of angels.

In the light of winter's moon, with the Southern Cross lighting the way,

we gather outside the door of a mystery, wondering if we dare enter.

With folks and friends we love, with strangers we have just met,

we gather, becoming the holy family for this time and in this place.

## **GATHERING PRAYER**

Living God, on this holy night we gather—

to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory;

to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work;

to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise;

to sit with Mary, cradling your love.

May the good news of this night inspire us to tell the world of our great joy:

for to us is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

Glory and praise to you forever! Amen.

HYMN: #133 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

**ADESTE FIDELIS** 

#### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

This is the night we are reminded that God loves to be with us. Yet all too often – by our choices, our words, our silence – we choose not to be with Go. Join me as we pray on this holy night to the One who was born to gift us with mercy and hope.

# PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Copyright © Jan Berry)

God, You heap your love upon us like a parent providing for a family's needs, embracing a child with tenderness. Forgive us when, like spoiled children, we treat Your generosity as our right, or hug it possessively to ourselves.

Give us enough trust to live secure in Your love and to share it freely with others in openhanded confidence that Your grace will never run out. Amen.

Time for Silent Confession

### **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Into the valleys of our death, Jesus comes with life;

into the shadows of our world, Jesus brings light;

into the brokenness of our lives, Jesus brings forgiveness and peace.

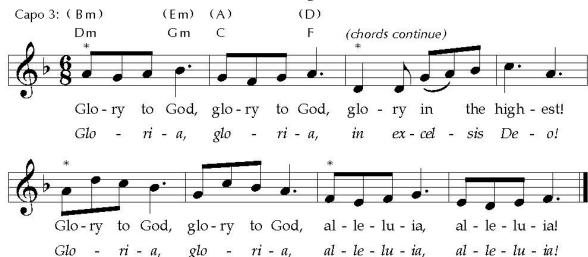
Thanks be to God for the gift of the Baby of Bethlehem, who brings joy and peace to us in these moments of forgiveness and in all the days to come. Amen.

Gloria: #583 "Glory to God, Glory to God" - With Bells GLORIA

# Glory to God

SUSSEX CAROL, ARR.

# Gloria, gloria



#### **PASSING THE PEACE**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION	Douglas E. Wagner
God's Promise of a Savior	Isaiah 7:14
Hymn 121 vs. 1, 4 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"	ST. LOUIS
The story begins	Luke 1:1-4
Hymn 112 vs. 1 "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing"	SUSSEX CAROL
Gabriel visits Mary	Luke 1:26-38
Hymn 112 vs. 4 "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing"	SUSSEX CAROL
The angel and Joseph	Matthew 1:18-25
Hymn #123 (vs. 1, 5): "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"	CAROL

Anthem: "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing" - Handbells

Mary and Joseph journey to Bethlehem, Jesus is born Luke 2:1-7

Hymn #115 "Away in a Manger" **MUELLER** 

Angels appear to shepherds Luke 2:8-14

Hymn #113 (vs. 1 & 3) "Angels We Have Heard on High" **GLORIA** 

Shepherds decide to follow Luke 2:15

Hymn #145 (vs. 1) "What Child is This"	GREENSLEEVES
Shepherds journey to the manger	Luke 2:16-18
Shepherds praise God	Luke 2:19-20
Hymn #151 (vs. 1) "We Three Kings"	KINGS OF ORIENT
Wise men travel from the east	Matthew 2:1-8
Hymn #151 (vs. 2) "We Three Kings"	KINGS OF ORIENT

Hymn #144 (vs. 1, 4) "In the Bleak Midwinter"

**CRANHAM** 

Matthew 2:9-12

#### **CALL TO THE OFFERING**

Wise men offer gifts to the baby

Come now and kneel before the Christ child. Bring all that you are and all that you have. Offer your gifts in wonder and surprise and awe. Offer your gifts in joy and delight. We invite all who wish to come forward and bring your gifts to the manger.

### **OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" - Handbells

IN DULCI JUBILO, arr. Douglas E. Wagner

DOXOLOGY 675 TALLIS CANON



#### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Now, as we approach this night of giftedness, remind us of those who struggle to put food on the table, to buy a single gift for their child, to wrap a warm blanket around a grandparent, so we might realize how blessed we are and share from our abundance. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

#### THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

#### INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

# **Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

May the God of silent nights be with you!

# May the God of herald angels be with you!

Open your hearts to the One born in the little town of Bethlehem.

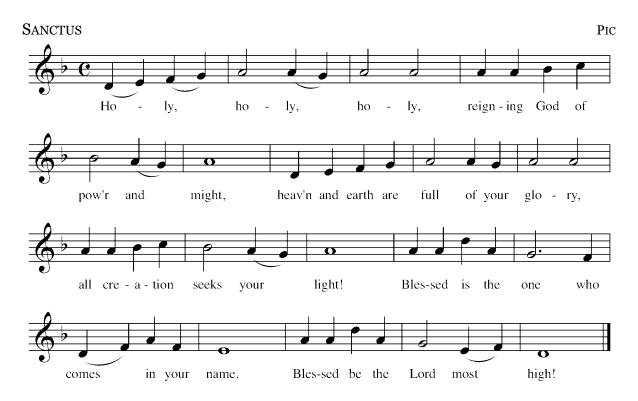
# May Emmanuel come to abide in our hearts.

Join all believers in singing of our joy this night.

# May our voices blend with those of the angels and shepherds.

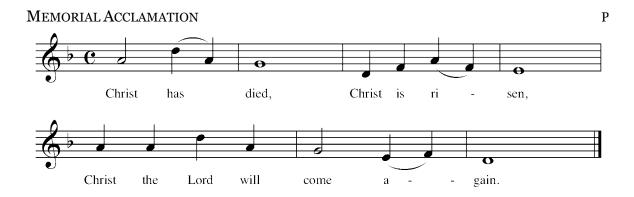
You crept into chaos so long ago, Star-shaper... we sing praises to you this Christmas night:

#### **PICARDY SANCTUS**



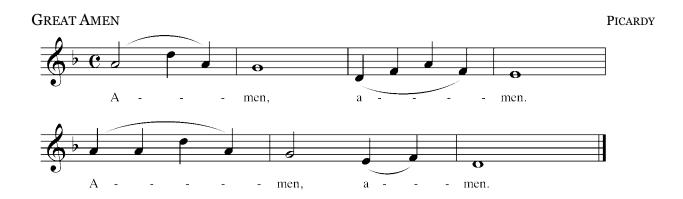
Glory to you, God in the highest heavens!... we proclaim that mystery called incarnation:

### PICARDY MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION



Here in the silence and the singing, ... God in Community, Holy in One.

## **PICARDY AMEN**



### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

And all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

And forget not all God's benefits.

Solo: "O Holy Night" - Kelsey Burns, soprano

Cantique de Noel, JS Dwight and Adolphe Adam

Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled

Isaiah 9:2-7

Hymn #122 "Silent Night" (insert)

**STILLE NACHT** 

# **Closing Prayer**

# **Bell Tolls**

# **BENEDICTION**

Hymn #134 "Joy to the World" (insert)

**ANTIOCH** 

# **POSTLUDE**

