



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

CCLI License # 2839486

December 24, 2024

4:00pm

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prepare the Way of the Lord 95

Capo 1: (D) (G) (D) (chords continue)
 * E^b A^b E^b *

Pre-*pare* the way of the Lord. Pre-*pare* the way of the Lord,
 and all peo-*ple* will see the sal-*va*-tion of our God.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

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

JUBILATE DEO

155 Raise a Song of Gladness

Jubilate Deo

D G A D G A (chords continue)
 * * * *

Raise a song of glad-ness, peo-*ples* of the earth.
Ju - bi - la - te De - o om - nis ter - ra.

Christ has come, bring-*ing* peace, joy to ev-*ery* heart.
Ser - vi - te Do - mi - no in lae - ti - ti - a.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, joy to ev-*ery* heart!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, in lae - ti - ti - a!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, joy to ev-*ery* heart!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, in lae - ti - ti - a!

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 open-handed 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

583

Gloria, gloria

Capo 3: (Bm) (Em) (A) (D)
Dm Gm C F (chords continue)

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

PASSING THE PEACE

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

SUSSEX CAROL, ARR.
DOUGLAS E. WAGNER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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

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"

Shepherds journey to the manger

Shepherds praise God

GREENSLEEVES

Luke 2:16-18

Luke 2:19-20

Hymn #151 (vs. 1) "We Three Kings"

Wise men travel from the east

KINGS OF ORIENT

Matthew 2:1-8

Hymn #151 (vs. 2) "We Three Kings"

Wise men offer gifts to the baby

KINGS OF ORIENT

Matthew 2:9-12

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

CRANHAM

CALL TO THE OFFERING

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

675 All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night" (numbered 675). The score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are: "4 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heaven-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost." There are asterisks above the first, fourth, and seventh measures of the first system, and above the first measure of the second system.

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

SANCTUS

PIC

The musical score for the Picardy Sanctus is written on four staves of music. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, reign - ing God of pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, all cre - a - tion seeks your light! Bles-sed is the one who comes in your name. Bles-sed be the Lord most high!

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

PICARDY MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P

Christ has died, Christ is ri - sen,
Christ the Lord will come a - - gain.

The musical notation consists of two staves in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for "Christ has died, Christ is ri - sen," with a fermata over the word "ri". The second staff contains the melody for "Christ the Lord will come a - - gain," with a fermata over the word "a".

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

PICARDY AMEN

GREAT AMEN

PICARDY

A - - - - men, a - - - - men.
A - - - - - - - - men, a - - - - men.

The musical notation consists of two staves in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for "A - - - - men, a - - - - men," with a fermata over the word "a". The second staff contains the melody for "A - - - - - - - - men, a - - - - men," with a fermata over the word "a".

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

