

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

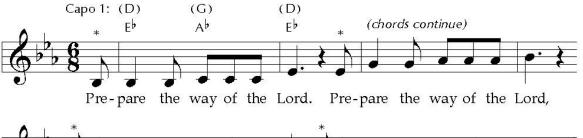
CCLI License # 2839486

December 24, 2024 11:00pm

PRELUDE "What Child Is This?" Kurt Ebsary

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prepare the Way of the Lord 95

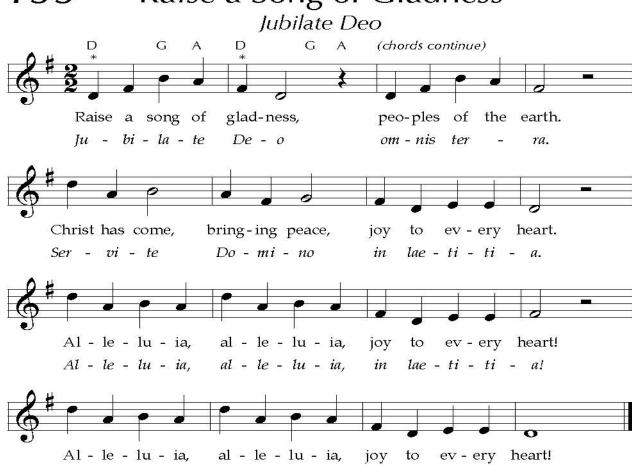




ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Choral Response: Jubilate Deo "Raise a Song of Gladness" #155, with Bells

155 Raise a Song of Gladness



lae - ti - ti - a!

in

al - le - lu - ia,

Al - le - lu - ia,

CALL TO WORSHIP

Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy.

To us is born this day in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!

Let us go now to Bethlehem.

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 God. 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

This was going to be the year, God of silent nights, when we were going to give away more than we spent, but we didn't. This was going to be the season when we spent more time with others, but we filled our calendars with meetings. This was going to be the Christmas when we wrote personal letters to friends and family, but spent too much energy filling out our to-do lists. This was going to be a truly holy season, but it just got to harried and hurried. Forgive us, Love Gifter, and draw us closer to the Baby born not into wealth and power, but into poverty and weakness; to the One who loves unconditionally and welcomes all; to the Child who gathers other children to him, to bless them and serve them; to the One who drew near to us, so we might be drawn to your heart—Jesus Christ, our Brother, our Lord.

Time for Silent Confession

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

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

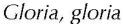
into the shadows of our world, Jesus brings light;

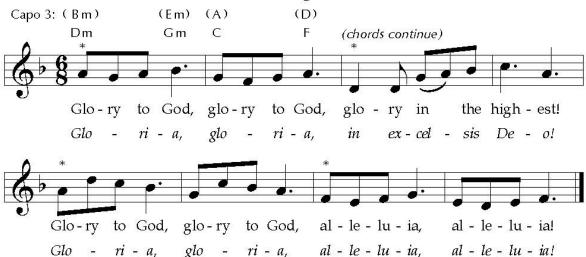
into the brokenness of our lives, Jesus brings forgiveness and peace.

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.

Glory to God

583





PASSING THE PEACE

Anthem: "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing"
Handbells

SUSSEX CAROL, ARR.

DOUGLAS E. WAGNER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Loving God, by the gift of your Spirit, teach us, like Mary, to treasure your words and ponder them in our hearts; through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Reading Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Hymn 140 (vs. 1, 2) "Once in Royal David's City"

IRBY

SCRIPTURE Reading Isaiah 52:7-10

Hymn 108 vs. 1, 2, 3 "Of The Father's Love Begotten"

ES IST EIN' ROS'

SCRIPTURE Reading Magnificat Luke 1:46b-55

Hymn 100 (vs. 1, 2) "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"

STAR OF COUNTY DOWN

SCRIPTURE Reading Luke 2:1-7

Anthem "Still is the Night"

Joseph Martin

Choir

SCRIPTURE Reading Luke 2:8-14

Hymn 113, vs. 1, 3 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

GLORIA

SCRIPTURE Reading Luke 2:15-20

Choir

SCRIPTURE Reading Titus 2:11-14

Meditation: Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING

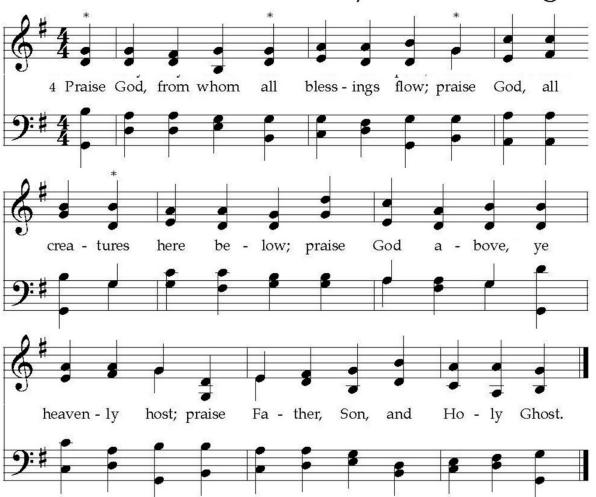
Offertory "Noel" Chris Tomlin/Lauren Daigle

Kelsey Burns, soprano

DOXOLOGY "All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night" (with Bells)

TALLIS' CANON

675 All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night



PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Now, on 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!

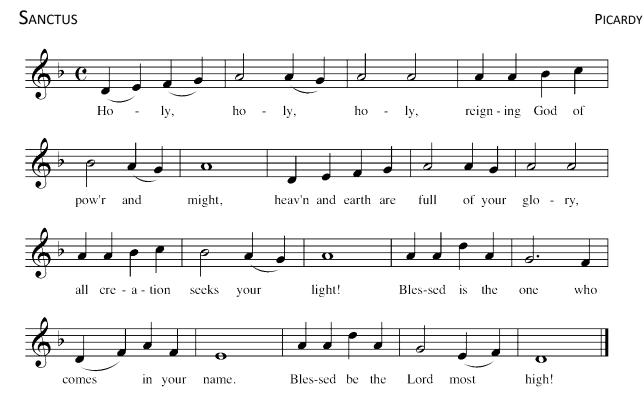
Open your hearts to the One born in the little town of Bethlehem.

May Emmanuel come to abide in our hearts.

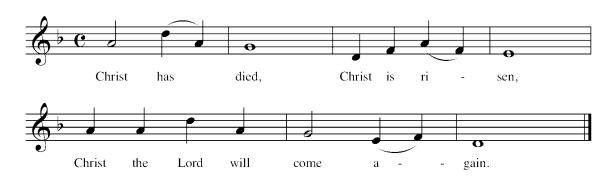
Join all believers in singing of our joy this night.

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:

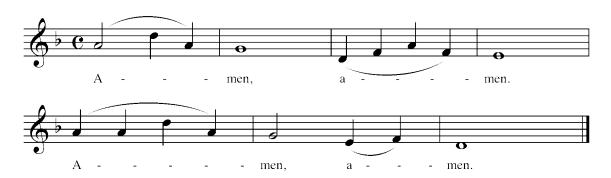


Glory to you, God in the highest heavens!... we proclaim that mystery called incarnation:



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

GREAT AMEN PICARDY



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.

Scripture: John 1:1-14

HYMN: 122 "Silent Night" STILLE NACHT

Closing Prayer

Bell Tolls

BENEDICTION

HYMN: 134 "Joy to the World" ANTIOCH

POSTLUDE

