



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

Introit: Prepare the Way of the Lord #95, with Bells

Prepare the Way of the Lord 95

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

Pre-prepare the way of the Lord. Pre-prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the sal-va-tion of our God.

The musical notation is in 6/8 time, key of B-flat major. It consists of two staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. Above the staff, the chords are indicated as (D), (G), (D), and (chords continue), with asterisks above E^b, A^b, and E^b. The lyrics are written below the notes.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

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

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!

The musical notation is in 4/4 time, key of D major. It consists of four staves. Above the first staff, the chords are indicated as D, G, A, D, G, A, and (chords continue), with asterisks above the first three. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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

Gloria, gloria

583

Capo 3: (B m) (E m) (A) (D)
 Dm G m 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

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

Anthem

“Sing a Glad Noel”

Mary Lynn Lightfoot

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

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in a Tallis Canon style. It features a treble and bass clef for each part, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "4 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost." The score includes three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a basso continuo line. The first system has three asterisks above the vocal line. The second system has one asterisk above the vocal line. The third system has no asterisks. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

4 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye
heaven - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

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:

SANCTUS

PICARDY

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:

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

PICARDY

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

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major and common time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The notes are simple, with some slurs and ties to indicate phrasing.

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

GREAT AMEN

PICARDY

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

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major and common time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The notes are simple, with some slurs and ties to indicate phrasing.

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

