

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

55 Smith Street

East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

570-421-5821

December 24, 2021, 7:30 P.M. Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion

We joyfully welcome all who have come to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Let every voice be lifted up in singing and praying as we focus upon the Prince of Peace, the Light of the World. Together, we are children of God. Welcome!

PRELUDE "Lullay, Thou Little Tiny Child" ARR. LANI SMITH

*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him, Born the King of angels! O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; sing all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Beloved in Christ, on this wintry evening, and in the simple setting of this historic Church, let us shape our minds and hearts to recall and celebrate the great tradition from which our trust and hope have sprung.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture, the story of the loving purposes of God from creation to consummation, from the ancient vision to the birth of that child who shall wean our aged flesh from its childish way.

Let us pray, first, for the needs of all humankind, for peace on earth and good will among all the spiritual offspring of Adam and Eve. May the swords of war be beaten into ploughshares, and the spears of enmity, shaped into pruning hooks.

And, let us pray next for those with special needs at this Christmas time, for those who suffer in body for those who languish in spirit, for those whose longing has not been fulfilled, and for all of us whose worldly riches disguise our poverty of soul.

Finally, let us pray for that communion of saints gathered to confess the appearance of the Light. Give us grace to walk in the Light that lighteth all humankind, that we may scatter the darkness of the world, and point the way to the perfect day.

We ask these prayers in the name of Him who taught us to pray, saying:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 FIRST LESSON "The Prophetic Vision" *Isaiah 9: 2-7 (Pg.638)*

*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold!
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all gracious King!
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not the love-song which they bring;
O hush the noise, ye men of strife, and hear the angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!

For lo!, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

SOLO "Breath of Heaven" Pastor Nicki

THE SECOND LESSON "The Annunciation" *Luke 1: 26-38 (Pg. 56)*

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by
Yet in the dark street shineth the everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God, the King, and peace to men on earth

How silently, how silently, the wondrous Gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive Him still the dear Christ enters in

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell
Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

THE THIRD LESSON

“The Birth”

Luke 2: 1-20 (Pg. 58)

SOLO

“O Holy Night”

Carole Emery

*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

“What Child Is This?”

What Child is this who, laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom Angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and Angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh, come peasant, king to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise a song on high, the Virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

HOMILY

“Jesus is Family”

Pastor Nicki

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

“Away in a Manger”

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head
The stars in the sky look down where he lay
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes
I love thee Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle ‘til morning is nigh

Be near me Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I Pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to love with thee there.

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

DEDICATION OF OFFERING

THE INVITATION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you.
P: And also with you.
L: Lift up your hearts.
P: We lift them to the Lord.
L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

(you will be invited to prepare your elements **or** raise your hand and an usher will bring the elements to you)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

THE FOURTH LESSON

John 1: 1-18 (Pg. 91)

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Vogel Family

*SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

(Please light your candle by tilting in toward your neighbor's already lit candle)

*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

“Silent Night”

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, heav'nly 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.”

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL CAROL

“Joy to the World”

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev’ry heart prepare him room and heav’n and nature sing,
and heav’n and nature sing, and heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

POSTLUDE

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

ARR. BY VICTOR LABENSKE

The poinsettias in our sanctuary are given by:

Betty Chu in memory of her husband, Joe Chu
David and Barbara Braithwaite in memory of their parents
Linda Schaller in honor of her sons, Bill and Stephen
Linda Schaller in honor of her grandchildren, Emily, Bryce, Sydney and Hunter
Linda Schaller in memory of her parents, Ruth and Bill Moore
Linda Schaller in memory of her husband, Frank Schaller
Linda Schaller in memory of her grandparents, Ruth and Charles Butterworth
Ron and Connie Powell in memory of their parents
The Hall family in memory of Carol’s brother, Jeffrey Scott Bertine
The Choir in memory of Walter Emery
Bonnie Miller in memory of Booter Miller
Scott Harrison in honor of Doris Harrison, Harry Harrison, Susan Williams, Albert “Buddy”
Williams
Scott Harrison in memory of Marjorie Harrison, Charles Harrison. Shirley Baker, Stanley Baker,
Robert Harrison Sr. and Matilda Harrison
Rich and Sharon Laverdure in honor of the ESPC Church family
Rich and Sharon Laverdure in honor of family - Bill & Jodi Danniels, Lily, Ruse and Blake
Rich and Sharon Laverdure in honor of family – Bryan Laverdure
Rich and Sharon Laverdure in memory of family – Roland & Florence Laverdure
Rich and Sharon Laverdure in memory of family – Edgar and Dorothy Schnure
The Menio family in memory of John Menio
The Menio family in memory of Albert Skelton
Karen Padgett in memory of James H. Padgett
Edwin and Anna Mae West in memory of loved ones

Church Staff

Nicole Vogel
Jen Carmella
Linda Schaller
Bob Lee
Sami Carmella
Keith Karkut

Pastor
Secretary
Music Director
Sexton
Nursery Attendant
Technology