

**Celebration Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Christmas Eve Carol, Communion & Candlelight**

Worship Service

December 24, 2019

Pre-Service Music 4:45PM Worship 5:00PM

Peeling of the Bells

Lighting the Advent/Christmas Wreath – The Burrows Family

Advent Wreath Hymn No. #88 (vs. 7) *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.*

Greeting Joy to the world the Lord has come and is coming again!
Glory to God in the highest! **Merry Christmas!**

Welcome and Announcements Tom Dendy, Pastor

***Responsive Call to Worship**

Light looked down and saw darkness.

“I will go there,” said Light.

Peace looked down and saw war.

“I will go there,” said Peace.

Love looked down and saw hatred.

“I will go there,” said Love.

So the Lord of Light, the Prince of Peace, the King of Love

Came down and crept in beside us.

**We have come to worship Jesus Christ the Lord and Prince
and King.**

Carol No. 133 *O Come, All Ye Faithful

Old Testament Scripture Reading I: Micah 5:2, 5a

Carol No. 121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Old Testament Scripture Reading II: Isaiah 40:1-11

Carol No. 123 *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

Christmas Eve Love Offering for *SHEPHERD’S TABLE* - Conway

Offertory

Welcome to our World
Sarah Abushakra, Soloist

Christmas Gospel: Luke 2:1-7

Carol No. 115 *Away in a Manger*

Christmas Gospel: Luke 2:8-20

Carol No. 113 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Christmas Eve Meditation:

Tom Dendy

Carol No. 116 *The Snow Lay on the Ground*

Invitation to Celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion Instructions: Tonight, we will celebrate communion by the method of *intinction*. Please come forward a row at a time to partake by taking a portion of the bread, dipping it in the cup of grape juice, and eating it in remembrance of Christ's body broken and His blood shed for you.

(You will be handed a candle as you make your way back to your seat.)

Words of Institution

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Musical Offerings during Holy Communion

Unison Prayer After Communion

O Lord, we pray, that we may draw new vigor and vision from celebrating the Nativity of Jesus, your Only Begotten Son, by whose heavenly mystery we have received both food and drink to sustain us for the journey ahead. Thanks be to you O Holy Triune God.

Christmas Gospel: John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Silent Meditation in the Darkness

Candle Lighting Instructions: The Pastor and an Elder will light candles from the Christ candle and then light the candle of each person seated nearest the aisle on both sides of the sanctuary. The light can then be shared down each row by tipping your unlit candle to the flame of your neighbor's lighted candle.

Parents please assist your children in lighting their candles.

Closing Carol No. 122 *Silent Night, Holy Night

***Benediction** Go forth knowing that God's Light draws you into the world to reflect Christ's light to the world. Go in peace and have a Merry Christmas!

***Postlude**

Please extinguish your candles and return them to the baskets in the Narthex as you leave the sanctuary.

We Welcome YOU to this Christmas Eve Worship service and extend a warm invitation to all our guests to join us for Coffee and Fellowship at 10:15 a.m. and Worship each Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m.

**God Bless You With a
Merry Christmas and Blessed 2020
From Everyone at
Celebration Presbyterian Church
and
*Celebration Preschool***