



Memorial Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2014

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland
Savior, of the Nations, Come

J. S. Bach

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Emma Lou Diemer

Offertoire sur deux Noëls

Alexandre Guilmant

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Johann Pachelbel

In dulci jubilo: Four Faces of a Folksong

Eleanor Whitsett

1. Announcement: Christ Is Born
2. Shepherds, Haste!
3. Lullaby
4. Dance of Joy

GREETING, CALL TO WORSHIP, AND PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

who made heaven and earth. —Psalm 124:8

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,

**"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
the house of the God of Jacob;**

**that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”** —Isaiah 2:2-3 (NRSV)
O send out your light and truth, O God . . .
we pray in the strong name of Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD IN LESSONS AND CAROLS

THE FIRST LESSON	Isaiah 1:1-3, 10-11, 18-20; 2:1-5 LAMENT FOR SIN AND PERVASIVE INJUSTICE; THE “NEVERTHELESS” OF GOD’S PROMISE	Trudy Beard
*CAROL	<i>We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom</i> MERLE’S TUNE	378
THE SECOND LESSON	Isaiah 7:10-14; 9:2-7 GOD’S PROMISE OF THE COMING OF THE PRINCE OF PEACE AND THE “KINGDOM OF RIGHTEOUSNESS”	Ann Fayles
CAROL	<i>Come, Come Emmanuel</i> COME, COME EMMANUEL	91
THE THIRD LESSON	Isaiah 11:1-10 THE PEACEABLE KINGDOM	Rachel Bradley
CAROL	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i> VENI EMMANUEL	88, verses 1-2
THE FOURTH LESSON	Isaiah 40:1-11 THE CALLING AND BLESSING OF THOSE WHO PROCLAIM	John Beck
*CAROL	<i>Comfort, Comfort Now My People</i> GENEVAN 42	87
THE FIFTH LESSON	Isaiah 55:6-13 ALL CREATION SINGS FOR JOY	Jim Rodriguez
CAROL	<i>Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old</i> SAMANTHRA	77
THE SIXTH LESSON	Isaiah 56:1-2, 6-8; 60:1-3 ALL NATIONS SHALL COME TO CHRIST, THE TEMPLE OF GOD	Linda Rodriguez

CAROL *The People Who Walked in Darkness* 86, verses 1 & 4
ISAIAH 9
Verses – Linda Rodriguez, soloist
Refrain – all sing

THE SEVENTH LESSON Isaiah 61:1-3, 10-11; John 1:1-5, 14 Jessica Farris
GOD WITH US

*CAROL *Love Has Come* 110
BRING A TORCH

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERING
OFFERTORY *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* Wilbur Held

PRAYER

Eternal God, you taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand. Keep us awake and alert, watching for the advent of your peaceable kingdom.

By the power of your Eternal Spirit, make us strong in faith, so that when Christ comes in glory to judge the earth, we may joyfully give him praise who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

In the beginning of creation,
When God made heaven and earth,
The earth was without form and void.
Darkness was over the face of the deep,
And a mighty wind swept over the water.
God said, "Let there be light,"
And there was light.

**God saw that the light was good,
And God separated the light from darkness.**

Genesis 1:1-4

When all things began, the Word already was.
The Word dwelt with God,
And what God was, the Word was.
Through him all things came to be;

No single thing was created without him.
All that came to be was alive with his life,
And that life was the light of the world.

**The light shines in the darkness,
And the darkness has never put it out.**

John 1:1-5

*CAROL

Silent Night, Holy Night
STILLE NACHT

122

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Do not quench the Spirit.

Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything;
hold fast to what is good;

abstain from every form of evil. (*1 Thess. 5:16-22, NRSV*)

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely;
and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this. (*1 Thess. 5:23-24, NRSV*)

Alleluia! Amen!

*POSTLUDE

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

John Rutter

*Those who are able may stand.

We invite anyone who wishes to consider membership in this church to contact the pastor or a member of the session. You may also indicate interest in membership by checking the appropriate column in the ritual of friendship booklet. Membership in this church is a step made by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith or transfer of church letter.