



Christmas Eve Family Candlelight Communion

December 24, 2023

5:00 P.M.

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in the coming of our Savior, Christ the Lord.

Gathering Around the Word

Preludes

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Carol of the Bells

Millie Davenport, piano

Improvisation on "Wachet auf," mvt. 1

Sietze de Vries/transcr. Nathaniel Brown

Chiming the Hour

Opening Prayer (Unison)

Loving Father, tonight we share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, the peace of the quiet stable, the tenderness of the holy family, and the wonder of the wise men.

Christ has come!

Now, will you close the door of hate? Will you open the door of love in our world?

Now might kindness be our gift, and goodwill be in every greeting? Deliver us from evil by the blessing Christ brings. In the morning, make us glad to be your children.

On Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake.

Amen.

Based on: A Christmas Prayer by: Robert Louis Stevenson

Choir Sings

A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

God with Us, Emmanuel

Joel Raney

Maker of the stars of night, of the sun by day, rise in us and bring your light: burn our shadows away

In the darkness where we dwell, we await the light of God, Emmanuel.

Litany (Responsive)

During Advent we've anticipated the coming Savior

Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

We've waited for the Giver of hope.

Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

We've waited for the Prince of Peace.

Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

We've looked for the Teacher of Love.

Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

We've wanted to see our Hope secured.

Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

Congregation: JOEL RANEY

Ev-er-last-ing Fa-ther, Prince of Peace,
Won-der-ful Coun-se-lor, Al-might-y God.
Em-man-u-el, Em-man-u-el. God with
us, Em-man-u-el.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

Loving God, once you were poor and weak, lying in a manger; so let us now be moved to serve the weak and needy. Once there was no place for you in the inn; so now make us watchful for those who need our welcome. As once the shepherds saw a great sign; now let us expect wonders in our lives. Once the angels sang; so now let us rejoice. Because Christ is the answer to sin, let us turn from our disobedience, and let us embrace what is good and right and true. Forgive us, and on this night of all nights, renew us in the faith that inspires celebration.

Response Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

*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;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel.*

The Declaration of Good News

Hearing the Word

All Sit

Prayer for Illumination

A Presentation of The Gospel Narrative, Jesus Is Born

Reader- Claire Ellington

Nativity: Joseph- Drew Ellington Mary-Millie Davenport Angel Gabriel- Quinn Ellington
Shepherds- Kenny Crocker, John Duncan Trickey Wise People- Jake Ellington, Charlotte Crocker

Anthem

Cradle Song
Chancel Choir

Gerald Near

Sermon

'Twas the Evening of Christmas

Matthew Covington

Responding to the Word

All Stand

Response Carol 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

Affirmation of Faith

Drawn from Scripture

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of the cross. Amen.

John 1:1, 1 John 4: 14, 18 and Colossians 1:15, 19-2

All Sit

The Offering

Offertory

Chancel Brass

All Stand

Doxology

Sealing the Word: The Lord's Supper

The Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Sanctus: *Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts,
Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory;
Glory be to Thee, O Lord Most High. Amen*

Communion Anthem

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
Chancel Choir and Chancel Brass

Michael Praetorius

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Bearing and Following the Word Into The World

All Stand

Carol 122

Silent Night, Holy Night
During this Hymn, Light will be Shared

STILLE NACHT

Silence Before The Christ Candle is lighted

Response Hymn 134

Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH

Benediction

Postlude

Chancel Brass

WELCOME VISITORS!

*WELCOME VISITORS! As we worship online or in-person, we are glad you are with us!
For more information about our church, pastoral help or for prayer requests, please email
our church office: info@bgpres.org or visit our website: www.bgpres.org*

The Presbyterian Church Staff

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<i>Pastoral Assistant</i>	<i>Thomas N. Moody</i>
<i>Choir Director</i>	<i>Dr. Wayne Pope</i>
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<i>Clerk of Session</i>	<i>Tim Leigh</i>
<i>Sunday Sexton</i>	<i>Sara Parkerson</i>
<i>Sound Attendant</i>	<i>Lillian Hargesheimer</i>

Calendar	
Sunday, December 24	
8:30 a.m.	Fellowship
9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
9:15 a.m.	Children's Music
10:30 a.m.	Worship
5:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship
Monday, December 25	
Office Closed	
Tuesday, December 26	
2:00 p.m.	Staff Meeting
Wednesday, December 27	
7:00 a.m.	Breakfast Group (Teresa's)
Thursday, December 28	
6:00 p.m.	DRITI
Friday, December 29	
11:00 a.m.	Joel Brown Memorial Service

Assisting in Worship

USHERS: The Kernohan and Hines families
COLLEGIATE ENSEMBLE: Wyatt Edmunds, Hailey Goodwin, Darcy Merriman, Jeremiah Simpson
CHANCEL BRASS: Joseph Powers, trumpet; Cody Gilstrap, trumpet; Tanner Stuppy, trombone;
 Jim Stites, trombone
COMMUNION SERVERS: Larry Warden and Karol Ahmed
MEDIA PERSONNEL: David Clarke, The Parkersons
NURSERY: Alisia Simmons, Yamilet Bruno Sanchez, Hailey Gadberry

<p>Elders: Class of 2024-Frederica Kernohan, Tim Leigh, Bobby Rabold, Debbie Trickey, Larry Warden; Class of 2025-Karol Kirby Ahmed, Buzz English, Pamela Napier, Julia Roberts, Julie Wedge; Class of 2026-Pam Bratcher, Rachel Crocker, J.B. Hines, Susan Howard, Mike Kanan Deacons: Class of 2024 Trudy Burkeen, Evan Goad, Linda Leigh, Catherine Reber, Susan Thomison; Class of 2025-Barbara Brindle, Craig Long, Teri Polen, Ernie Small, Dan Stelling, Fred Trickey; Class of 2026- Phil Burkeen, Kim Ferguson, Kathy Higgins, Brianna Trickey</p>

Donate Online: The church website accepts online donations. Just go to our website (right) and fill out the simple form. Donations can also be made from your smart phone. You can also scan the QR code. <https://bgpres.org/give>



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