



Manager, 2021. Artist: Valente, Liz

Christmas Eve Family Candlelight Communion

**December 24, 2024
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 of Worship

Chiming The Hour

Welcome

Prelude

Away in a Manger
Millie Davenport

arr. Edwin McClean

Welcome to Our World
Youth Vocal Ensemble

Chris Rice

Opening Prayer (Unison)

Jesus, Light of the World, this Christmas Eve we celebrate your birth and your shining glory. As you chose the lowly, the outcasts, and the poor to receive the greatest news the world has known, so may we worship you in meekness of heart and in the full joy of your Spirit. Amen.

We Rise in Spirit and in Body

A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent & Call to Worship (responsive)

Children of God, we are gathered with hearts full of anticipation, our time of waiting and watching has brought us to this sacred moment.

We arrive with assurance, knowing that God-with-us is here, ever present, surrounding us with grace and mercy.

As we gather tonight, we remember the promised gifts of the Messiah. In the lighting of five candles, we set our gaze upon lights that sustain us through sleepless nights and restless days. We bear this light together. We light the candle of Hope (*Light first candle*)...the candle of Peace (*light second candle*)...the candle of Joy (*light the third candle*)...the candle of Love (*light the fourth candle*). And now tonight we light the Christ's candle (*light the center candle*).

God of Love and Light, we celebrate the birth of hope made new, grateful for your faithful love. You, O God, are our hope, our peace, our joy and our love. You are our all-in-all.



Call to Confession**Prayer of Adoration and Confession** (unison)

O God, who gave your very self in human form, your majesty born into our poverty, your love filling vulnerable hearts, we praise you for your surprising glory that dwells in the mist of shattered humanity, a love that endures for all time. But we confess that Christ's birth has been ignored; we have not made room in our daily lives; we have mislaid your message of reconciling love; we have stopped singing our hallelujahs. God who comes in the child and anointed one, release us from our self-centeredness, and free us to live as your beloved and forgiven people, welcoming all to the light. Amen.

A Silence is observed for Personal Confession

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.*

Declaration of Good News (responsive)

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Jesus saves and your sins are forgiven.

Hallelujah! Glory to God in the highest.

Passing the Peace of Christ (responsive)

His name shall be called Prince of Peace. The peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you.

Hearing the Word

All Sit

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

God who comes in Christmas light, shine once more upon our hearts, that as your word is read and proclaimed, the Christ child will come again into our lives and fill us with your amazing grace and peace. Amen.

A Presentation of The Gospel Narrative, Jesus Is Born

Readers- Claire Ellington and Lila Maslowski

Nativity: Angels: Layla Trickey, Quinn Ellington, and Everly Compton **Joseph-** Kenny Crocker

Mary- Stella Maslowski **Shepherds-** John Duncan Trickey and Charlotte Crocker

Wisemen- Jake Ellington, Lincoln Compton, and Dono Maslowski

Anthem

I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve
Chancel Choir

Peder Knudsen/arr. John Ferguson

Sermon

Eyes on the Nativity

Kyle Otterbein

Responding to the Word

All Stand

Response Carol 113

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

Affirmation of Faith (unison)

John 1:1, 14, 16

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

All Sit

Offering

Offertory

Chancel Brass

All Stand

Doxology

DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, all creatures here below
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

Sealing the Word: Lord's Supper

The Celebration of the Lord's Supper

The Great Thanksgiving

SANCTUS

SANCTUS

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer

A Moment of Silence

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

Communion Anthem

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

Michael Praetorius

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

Benediction (responsive)

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy and make you heralds of the gospel.

Amen.

Response Hymn 134

Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH

Postlude

In Dulci Jubilo
Chancel Brass and Organ

arr. Samuel Schmidt

**Jesus is the center of Christmas! Everything revolves around him, everything exists through him, he is the exact expression of God the Father. This drawing shows the centrality of Jesus in his composition: around the boy, the straw; straw around the floor; at the edges of the frame, the animals; at the edges of the paper, darkness. Light streaks radiate from the boy, the light was in him and this was the light of men. The shades of red were used a lot with the intention of creating a warm atmosphere, the birth of Jesus is the measure of God's love for us. It's Christmas! Jesus was born! Hallelujah! This drawing was originally published in a Christmas series by @editoraultima.*

Jesus é o centro do natal! Tudo gira em torno dele, tudo existe por meio dele, ele é a exata expressão de Deus Pai. Esse desenho traz a centralidade de Jesus em sua composição: ao redor do menino, a palha; ao redor palha o chão; nas bordas do quadro, os animais; nos extremos do papel, a escuridão. Do menino irradiam riscos de luz, a luz estava nele e esta era a luz dos homens. Os tons de vermelho foram muito usados com a intenção de criar uma atmosfera quente, o nascimento de Jesus é a medida do amor de Deus por nós. É natal! Jesus nasceu! Aleluia! Esse desenho foi publicado originalmente em uma série de natal da @editoraultima

Liz Valente is a liturgical artist, wife and mother of 4 children; she has a master's degree in architecture and urbanism and is a professor of drawing for training architects at higher education levels. She works on several artistic fronts, such as theatre, visual arts and music, having created the album "Pipa Amarela", released in 2013. She has worked with teenagers and young people at the Presbyterian Church of Viçosa, where her husband serves as a pastor. In her spare time, she writes prayers with accompanying art images and shares them on Instagram. <https://www.instagram.com/donalizvalente/>

Announcements

USHERS: Kernohan and Hines families **CANDLELIGHTERS:** Ellington Family

COMMUNION SERVERS: Pam Bratcher, Debbie Trickey, and Larry Warden

COMMUNION PREPARERS AND CLEANUP: Frederica Kernohan

COLLEGIATE ENSEMBLE: Johnna Smith, Aletheia Burt, Mack Overfelt, Wyatt Edmonds, Jeremiah Simpson and Quinn Hixon

CHANCEL BRASS: Trumpets- Christi Shores and Joseph Powers; Trombones- Tanner Stuppy and Jim Stites

LAY READER: Ben Davenport

MEDIA PERSONNEL: Laura Parkerson

NURSERY: Alisia Simmons, Yamilet Bruno Sanchez

WELCOME VISITORS!

We invite you to pick up visitor's information on your way out, either in the narthex or on the table on the right in the downstairs entrance hall. Ushers will be standing by to help you find them. Always know that a cordial greeting is extended by ministers, officers, and congregation.

Clerk of Session: Debbie Trickey **Treasurer:** Steve Moore

Elders: 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; Class of 2027- Sam Evans, Nathan Love, Susan Thomison, Debbie Trickey, Larry Warden **Deacons:** Class of 2025- Barbara Brindle, Teri Polen, Ernie Small, Dan Stelling, Fred Trickey; Class of 2026- Phil Burkeen, Kim Ferguson, Kathy Higgins, Brianna Trickey; Class of 2027- Trudy Burkeen, Georgeanna Capito, Sally Calkins, Nancy Carwell, Evan Goad, Frederica Kernohan

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Donate Online: The church website accepts online donations. Just go to our website, and fill out the simple form. Donations can also be



Calendar

Sunday, Dec 29

8:30 a.m. Fellowship
(No Sunday School Session)
10:30 a.m. Worship

Monday, Dec 30

9:00 a.m. GOD/DOG is Love

Tuesday, Dec 31

11:00 a.m. Special Care
5:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting

Wednesday, Jan 1

Office Closed

Thursday, Jan 2

6:00 p.m. David's Room In the Inn
7:00 p.m. Neighborhood Group at Julia Roberts' home

Friday, Jan 3

7:30 a.m. Mens' Breakfast Group

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