



Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion
December 24, 2017
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

Christmas Eve Preludes

<i>Pastorale</i>	Walter B. Haynes
<i>In Dulci Jubilo</i>	Marcel Dupré
<i>Jingle Bells</i>	Henry Hulan
<i>We Three Kings</i>	Jane Ann Moots
<i>O Jesus So Sweet, So Mild</i>	Michael Fischer
<i>Joy to the World</i>	Claire Ellington
<i>Angels From the Realms of Glory</i>	Caroline Moots
<i>Lo How A Rose E’er Blooming</i>	Nate Stein
<i>A Christmas Antiphonal</i>	Hal Hopson
Beth Pope, Soprano	

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

All Stand

Opening Carol 113 Angels We Have Heard On High GLORIA

Lighting the First Advent Candle

Leader: The true light that enlightens us all is coming into the world.
People: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1:5
The First Candle on the Advent Wreath is lighted

Gathering Sentences (Responsive)

Leader: O Word of God, who was with God from the beginning and is God forever,
People: Speak to us tonight; fill us with wonder!
Leader: O Lord and King,
People: Come with outstretched arms to save us.
Leader: Light of the World,
People: Bring light to all who walk in darkness. Come quickly, Lord!

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 121	O Little Town of Bethlehem	ST. LOUIS
	O Holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us we pray; 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

Lighting the Second Advent Candle

Leader: The true light that enlightens us all is coming into the world.
People: On the night when Christ was born, the angels sang, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace...”
So let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since to this peace we are called. Luke 2:24, Colossians 3:15
The Second Candle on the Advent Wreath is lighted

The Passing of the Peace

All Sit

Hearing the Word

Prayer for Illumination

A Scriptural Harmony of the People’s Longing for a Savior (Responsive)
Psalm 96. Isaiah 9:2, 9:6, 11:1, 64:1, 40:3-4, Luke 1:47, Isaiah 61:2

O sing to the Lord a new song, sing to the Lord, all the earth. The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has shined.
Sing to the Lord and bless his holy name; proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day. For unto to us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be upon his shoulders.
Declare his glory among the nations and his wonders among all peoples. A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; the Spirit of the Lord will rest upon him.
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is more to be feared than all gods. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
As for all the gods of the nations, they are mere idols, it is the Lord who made the heavens. Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down!
Majesty and glory are before him; beauty and power are in his sanctuary. Render to the Lord, you families of the nations; render to the Lord glory and might. Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.
Render to the Lord the honor due to his name; bring offerings and come into his courts. My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my savior!
O worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness; let the whole earth stand in awe of him. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill made low; and the glory of the Lord will be revealed!

Say among the nations that the Lord is king, he has made the world so firm that it can never be moved; and he shall judge the peoples with equity. **He has done mighty deeds; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts; he has brought down the rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.** Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and all that fills it. Let the fields rejoice, and everything in them, then shall all the trees of the wood shout with joy before the Lord; **Proclaiming the year of the Lord’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve.** For he comes, he comes to judge the earth. **He shall judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.**

Solo	<i>O Holy Night</i> John Marshall, Jr., tenor	Adolph Adam
-------------	--	-------------

Lighting the Third Advent Candle
Leader: The true light that enlightens us all is coming into the world.
People: Our souls magnify the Lord, and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior! Luke 1:46-47
The Third Candle on the Advent Wreath is lighted

Gospel Reading and Presentation	Luke 2:1-20 How Many Miles to Bethlehem?
--	---

Sermon	<i>Christmas Spirit</i>	Matthew Covington
---------------	-------------------------	-------------------

	<i>Responding to the Word</i>	
<i>All Stand</i>		
Response Carol 119	<i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>	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, 19-20

All Sit
The Offering
The offerings taken tonight will support our congregation’s work with the Churches United in Christ Help Ministry. This is a joint ministry of downtown Bowling Green churches, providing assistance with utilities and other crisis matters. As an act of love and Christian concern, these churches provide emergency assistance to persons and families in need without regard for sex, age, race, national origin, religious affiliation or status.

Offertory	<i>Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming</i> Chancel Choir Brass Quintet	Michael Praetorius
------------------	---	--------------------

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Lighting the Fourth Advent Candle
Leader: The true light that enlightens us all is coming into the world.
People: All has taken place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: Behold a young woman shall conceive and bear a child, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means “God is with us.”
And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.
We have beheld the light of his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. John 1:9, 14; Matthew 1:22-23
The Fourth Candle on the Advent Wreath is lighted

Sealing the Word: The Lord’s Supper
All Sit
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*

Music at Communion	<i>Mary, Did You Know?</i> Will Pope, baritone Wayne Pope, guitar	Mark Lowry
	<i>O Come Emmanuel/I Wonder as I Wander</i> Brass Quintet and Organ	arr. Don Gillis

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

	<i>Bearing and Following the Word Into The World</i>	
<i>All Stand</i>		
Carol 122	<i>Silent Night, Holy Night</i> During the singing, the light from the Communion Table will be shared. As the light spreads, see that Jesus is the light that divides our darkness. As we share this light, we also share in Christ’s work. At the end of our singing, a silence is kept, awaiting the Christmas Joy.	STILLE NACHT

Silence Awaiting Christmas Joy	<i>The Christ Candle is lighted</i>
---------------------------------------	-------------------------------------

Response Hymn 134	<i>Joy to the World!</i>	ANTIOCH
--------------------------	--------------------------	---------

Benediction

Postlude	<i>The Holly and the Ivy</i> Brass Quintet	Traditional British Carol
-----------------	---	---------------------------

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. If you have a fussy baby or are coughing, etc., the worship service may be viewed from the parlor via television (across the hall from the Sanctuary). Loving childcare is available in our children’s center for children 3 and under on Sundays, and children’s activity packets are available in the narthex.

Crucifer: Larry Warden
Communion Servers: Georgeanna Capito, Keith and Nancy Carwell, John Fitts, Rob Hale, Fred Higgins, Stuart Kernohan, Bobby Rabold, Sheila Reeves, Margaret Stein
Brass Quintet: Amber Lamastus, trumpet; Joseph Powers, trumpet; Cody Golstrap, horn; Matt Crocker, trombone; Jim Stites, trombone/tuba

Our Gospel Reading and Presentation at the 5:00pm service will be led by our children and youth. Please remain seated. The words of Luke will be interspersed with words adapted from the picture book, How Many Miles to Bethlehem, by Kevin Crossley-Holland, Illustrated by Peter Malone. The book is available in our Children's Library in the Children's Center. We pray this will bring new insight and meaning to our Christmas Eve Worship.

The Presbyterian Church • 1003 State Street • Bowling Green, KY 42101
270-843-4707 www.bgpres.org