

First Presbyterian Church
Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols

December 24, 2015

9:00 p.m.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude Music

Beverly Bright, Kathleen Shedlock, Kay Ten Eyck, Connie Weiss, John Weiss

Call to Worship

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

***Those who lived in a land of deep darkness –
on them light has shined.***

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;

***Authority rests upon his shoulders,
and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.***

* Processional Hymn 133 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

* Prayer of Adoration

***Good and gracious God,
on this holy night you gave us your Son,
the Lord of the universe, wrapped in swaddling clothes,
the Savior of all, lying in a manger.
On this night, draw us into the mystery of your love.
Join our voices with the heavenly host
that we may sing your glory on high.
Give us a place among the shepherds,
that we may find the One for whom we have waited,
Jesus Christ, the Messiah and Lord,
who lives with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.***

* Lighting of the Christ Candle

Refrain (to Hymn 133): **O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Words of Welcome and Prayer for Illumination

Lesson Genesis 3:8-15
Carol “Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light”

Lesson Isaiah 11:1-9
Carol “Sussex Carol” arr. David Willcocks

Lesson Luke 1:26-38
Carol “Angels’ Carol” John Rutter

Lesson Luke 2:1-7
Carol “Away in a Manger” arr. David Willcocks

The congregation is invited to sing verse 3 (Hymn 114)

Lesson Luke 2:8-20
Hymn 119 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Sermon: “That’s What Christmas Is All About” Rev. Carter

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 134 “Joy to the World”
* Affirmation of Faith from Colossians 1:15-20
***Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation;
He himself is before all things. In him, all things hold together.
For in Christ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of the cross.***

Offering

Offertory "O Holy Night" Adam

* Prayer of Dedication and the Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Let us pray . . .

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Candlelighting Hymn 122 "Silent Night, Holy Night"

Please be careful in lighting candles. For safety, please hold lit candles upright.

Unlit candles are tipped toward flame.

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude "Joy to the World"

arr. Cherwien