

First Presbyterian Church
Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols

December 24, 2016

9:00 p.m.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude Music "There's a Song in the Air" arr. Smith, Hustad
 "Christmas Joy Medley" arr. G. Lanier
 "O Holy Night" arr. T. Graf

Call to Worship

Do not be afraid, for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy.

To you is born this day in the city of David

a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

On them light has shined.

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in cloth
and lying in a manger.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!

* Processional Hymn 133 "O Come All Ye Faithful"

* Prayer of Adoration

Living God, on this night we gather –

to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory;

to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work;

to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise;

to sit with Mary, cradling your love.

May the good news of this night inspire us

to tell the world of our great joy:

for to us is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

Glory and praise to you forever! Amen.

* Lighting of the Christ Candle

Refrain ***"O come, let us adore him . . . Christ the Lord."***

Words of Welcome

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Lesson Isaiah 9:2-7

Carol "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light"

Lesson Micah 5:2-5

Carol "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

The congregation is invited to sing verse 4 (Hymn 121).

Lesson Luke 1:26-38

Carol "There is Faint Music" Dan Forrest

Lesson Luke 2:1-7

Carol "Away in a Manger" arr. Susan Nelson

Lesson Luke 2:8-20

Hymn 113 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Sermon 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

"Silent Night"

arr. Ore

* 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 "Angels From the Realms of Glory" arr. Lasky

* All who are able shall stand.

PARTICIPANTS IN TONIGHT'S SERVICE

Pastor	Rev. William Carter
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Instrumentalists	Beverly Bright, Mike Carbone, Andy Kepler, Jeff Stockham, Connie Weiss, John Weiss
Readers	John Diven, Betsy Ellis, Hoyt Keiser, Myrna Diven, Jim McLaughlin
Ushers	Andrew Taylor, Gwynne Gilbert
Candlelighting Family	Paul and Adrienne Horger

**First Presbyterian Church
300 School Street
Clarks Summit, PA 18411
(570) 586-6306
www.fpccs.org**

We welcome visitors to our worship services and hope that you make your presence known! Please sign the red friendship pad in your pew and let us know you are here. **On Sunday, December 25th** we will worship at one service at **10:00 a.m.**

Large print bulletins, hymnals, and Bibles are available from ushers. Please return worship aids to ushers after use.

Do you want to know more about our church? Pick up some information in the lobby and visit our website at www.fpccs.org.

Interested in joining this church? Mark the space on the friendship pad. We will offer a **New Member Seminar** after the first of the year for those who would like to discover more about our church. Reserve your spot by calling 586-6306 or by e-mailing us at office@fpccs.org.

2017 offering envelopes for adults have been delayed. They will be available in the narthex shortly after the first of the new year.