

First Presbyterian Church of Youngstown

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2024

7:30 p.m.

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

Bolded words indicate unison responses from the congregation.

REFLECTION FOR WORSHIP

*The following scripture and reflection
are provided for meditation as we prepare for worship.*

Reflection on Luke 2:1-14 (15-20): For weeks television advertisements have told us how we ought to feel this night. We ought to feel warm and loving, especially if we have spent a small fortune on gifts for our family and friends. We hope that most in our congregations this night do feel great peace and joy, but let us take care not to presume. Some may come to church this night dealing with the death of a loved one, worrying about mounting financial debts, or struggling with tensions in their relationships. The good news from the Scriptures this night is more powerful than the pain that some may bring.

- Daniel Harris

Response: A child has been born for you. A Son has been given. How will you respond?

Prayer: God of grace, I thank you on this Christmas Eve that there is always reason for praise.
Your "world is fully established." Amen.

WE GATHER

Prelude

*Still, Still Still
O Holy Night*

Emma Lou Diemer (d. 2024)
Adolphe Adam

Sarah Moon, soprano

Welcome and Announcements

Julie

Miller

WE PRAISE

Threshold Moment

Make the Blessings Known: Incarnate Joy

Rev. Payne Warner

Sing a new song to the Lord

Let the voices of all people

Lift your hearts with gratitude

blend in harmony,

Sing a new song to the Lord

in unison let the people

Lift your hearts with gratitude

magnify the Beloved!

and incarnate joy.

May heaven and nature sing

Your steadfast love and faithfulness

Joy to the World

are ever present in our lives

May Heaven and nature sing out

Your steadfast love and faithfulness

with incarnate joy.

are ever present in our lives

with incarnate joy.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Daniel Ayana and John Einfalt – Class of 2021 Elders

Holy God, we give you thanks that you became Joy-Made-Flesh in Jesus Christ so that your hope, love, joy and peace could be multiplied in all of heaven and earth. Help us to remember that this is our true nature and that simply being the humans you have created us to be—including our moments of struggle and sadness—is what you want us to do fully, hopefully, lovingly, unabashedly, peacefully.

Together we proclaim that
The Lord has come to our hearts this day.
The Lord has come to our church this day.
The Lord has come to the world this day!

***Hymn #121**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

WE CONFESS

Call to Confession

The angels proclaim good news for all. Let us confess the sins that keep us from glorifying and enjoying our God.

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Gracious God, you call us to celebrate, yet we struggle to find hope in the suffering and despair of our world. What reason is there to rejoice? We turn from each other and from you, questioning the power of love in the face of the world's cruelty and hate. Comfort your people, sovereign God. Return us to the faith born this night. Save us from hopelessness. May the promise and possibility of every newborn child remind us of the salvation we have in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

"The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting."
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. **Amen.**

***Hymn of Forgiveness #117 (v. 6)**

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

WINCHESTER OLD

**"All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace;
good will to all from highest heaven begin and never cease."**

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

You are invited to pass the peace by saying, "Joy to You!" to the people around you.

WE LISTEN

Prayer of Illumination (in unison)

Savior God, liberate us from the sins which distort our vision and disrupt our hearing as we approach your Word. Standing firm in your love, let us open ourselves to the truth you reveal to us today. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 52:7-10

Pg. 596

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem

In the Stillness
The Motet Choir

John Purifoy

Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:1-20

Pg. 832

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Christmas Meditation

Living into Incarnate Joy

Rev. Payne Warner

***Affirmation of Faith**

the Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn #133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELIS

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***The Light of the World**

John 1:1-14

Hymn #122*

Silent Night, Holy Night!

STILLE NACHT

**** (vss. 1 & 2: Sarah and Sydney Moon singing)**

***Benediction**

**WE SCATTER TO CONTINUE OUR WORSHIP
IN SERVING OTHERS**

