

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS EVENING'S SERVICE

The Chancel Choir

Laura Davidson, Ray Hack, George Missey, Doug Orr, Don Pearce, Karen Tabor, Marykay Vallo, Deb Vita, Sue Phillips, Thomas Marshall, April Klein, Sandi Salmon

The Carillon Choir

Betty Miller, Anne Orr, Don Pearce, Aline Raines, Alain Richardson, Deb Vita, Donna Walker, Melissa Wiley

Horn

Bryan Adkins

THE PARAMENTS FOR THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

The paraments for Christmas Eve include several symbols that are descriptive of Christ and his ministry: the lamb represents Christ's work of redemption; the fish, symbolic not only of our call to be disciples, also evokes an ancient understanding of Jesus Christ, a play on the Greek word for fish - *ixthous*, whose letters, in Greek, create an acronym for *Jesus Christ, Son of God, our Savior*; the crown symbolizes Christ as King; the shepherd's crook reminds us that Christ is the Good Shepherd; the dove represents not only the Spirit, but also Christ as Prince of Peace; and the Greek letters Alpha and Omega remind us that Christ is the first and the last, the living one.

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Sarah Robbins, *Interim Pastor*
Corinne Adkins, *Director of Music & Organist*
Lois Cridge, *Business Manager*
Jennifer Zanke, *Administrative Assistant*
Fawn Pignoli, *Director of the GPC Early Learning Center*
Frank Maksin, *Property Manager*
Zachary Wall, *A/V Technician*



GPC is a member of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

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DECEMBER 24, 2022, 7:30 PM
CHRISTMAS EVE

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella!

Christopher Uehlein

Go Tell It on the Mountain
Carillon Choir

arr. Susan E. Geschke

What Child Is This

arr. Mark Hayes

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen
Bryan Adkins, horn

arr. Chip Davis

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

†

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Hymn 133

†

THE CHRISTMAS EVE LITANY

Bryan and Blair Adkins

Advent is a time to proclaim.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

We proclaim a hope that is stronger than any trial.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

We proclaim a victory that is stronger than any defeat.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

We proclaim a peace that is stronger than any conflict.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

We proclaim a freedom that is stronger than any bondage.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

† *Those who are able are invited to stand.*

† CANDLE LIGHTING

† REFRAIN

We Wait in Hope

A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

Words and Music by
JOEL RANEY

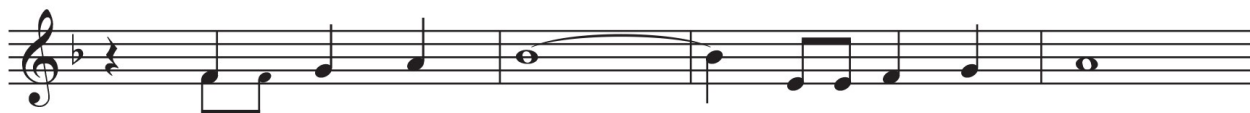
Congregation:
Refrain



We pro-claim with hope _____ for the morn - ing Light,



for the love of Christ to il - lu - mi - nate _____ the night. _____



We pro-claim with joy _____ for the Sav - ior's birth;



we pro - claim with hope for peace on earth.

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† Those who are able are invited to stand.

**Our parents, Dean and
Pearl Orr Evan Thomas**
Given by Doug and Anne Orr

Our parents
Given by Janet and Chick Pfeiffer

Elton and Helen McGoun
Given by their children,
grandchildren and great
grandchildren

Russ and Grace McGoun
Given by the families of
Kevin McGoun, Myron McGoun
and Alain Richardson

**James and Lois Condie
Carrie Vallo**
Given by Steve, Marykay
and Dylan Vallo

Joseph Vita
Given by racy, Joey
and Jimmy Vita

**Our parents, Tommie and
Jack Walter, Ruth and Harvey Miller
Uncle Orville Sample
Sister Mary Jane Miller**
Given by Betty and Ken Miller

**Molly Missey, beloved wife
and mother**
Given by Tami and David
and George Missey

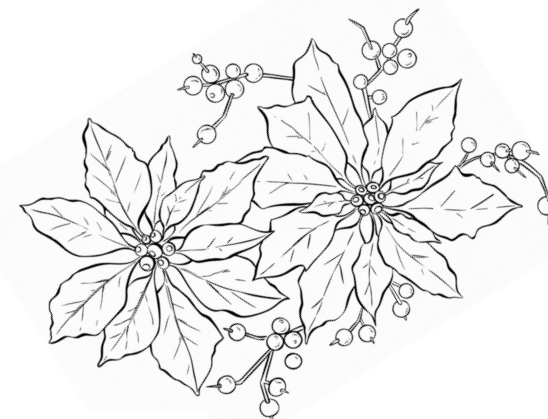
Marjorie Grabowski
Given by the Hastings Family

Thomas Golightly
Given by Carolyn Jones

Grandparents Pearce and Sheets
Given by Deb and Don

John Albert Pearce
Given by Donald A. Pearce
Loving memory of loved ones
Given by the Jankins Family

**John and Ruth Williams
Charles and Mildred Sonberger
Joseph and Ellen Luther
Jack and Betty Hartman**
Given by Marcy and John Hammann



Christmas Poinsettias

TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

Given by Tom and Audrey Clifton
Given by Donna Repic

Given by Karen and Tom Tabor

IN HONOR OF:

Max, Piper, Willie
Given by Ann Carlson

Those who give their gift of music to GPC
Given by anonymous

Our children and grandchildren
Given by Jane and Barry Hackett

IN MEMORY OF:

Our beloved husband, Dad and Pap-Pap, L. Scott Stauffer
Given by the Stauffer Family

**Marge Duderstadt
Dorothy and Donald J. Zahniser, Jr.**
Given by Keith and JoAnn Zahniser

**Paul Kunkel, father
Elizabeth Kunkel, Mother
Jon Eric Kunkel, brother
Dr. John Q Phillips
Mary D. Phillips**
Robert D. Phillips
Given by John and Leslie Phillips

Our father and Pop Pop, Allen E. Travis
Given by Terri McGee and Jake McGee

**Dr. and Mrs. John Q. Phillips
Bob Phillips
Mr. and Mrs. A. Murrin Held**
Given by Susan Phillips and Mark Held

Our parents and Jane’s brother Bo
Given by Jane and Barry Hackett

Beloved members of the Farbacher and Repic Families
Given by Donna Repic

† CHRISTMAS PRAYER

ANTHEM *Sleep, Little Sweet Jesus* arr. Winnagene Hatch
Chancel Choir

† CALL TO CONFESSION Rev. Tom Clifton

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we admit—we don’t fully understand the Christmas story.
We are not familiar with angel choruses.
We have not walked many miles to be counted in a census,
and we don’t always hear your voice in our dreams.
We don’t fully understand this story, so we admit, sometimes we hesitate to tell it.
Instead of running out into the streets to shout that there is a love bigger than we could imagine,
we whisper this good news.
Instead of throwing open the doors and inviting people in,
we simply leave them unlocked, hoping folks will figure it out.
Instead of telling the next generation why this night matters so much,
we stay quiet, afraid of creating pressure.
Forgive us for our silence.
Forgive us for our hesitation.
Forgive us for the moments when we fail to share your good news.
Plant this story of love so deep in our bones that we cannot help but share it from generation to generation. Amen.

† SILENT CONFESSION

† DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, repeat after me: No matter where we go, **No matter where we go,**
No matter what we say, **No matter what we say,**
No matter what we do, **No matter what we do,**
We belong to God. **We belong to God.**
We are held. **We are held.**
We are loved. **We are loved.**
We are forgiven. **We are forgiven. Amen!**

†

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

†

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Angels We Have Heard On High

Hymn 113

THE WORD

A TIME OF WONDER

ANTHEM

The Joy of Christmas

Carillon Choir

arr. Lloyd Larson

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-7

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song)

Marykay Vallo, contralto

Chris Eaton
Amy Grant

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:8-20

CHRISTMAS HOMILY

“We Tell This Story”

Rev. Sarah Robbins

ANTHEM

Angels’ Noel

Chancel Choir

Pepper Choplin

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

Silent Night

Bryan Adkins, horn

arr. Chip Davis

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Hymnal Page 35

SCRIPTURE READING

Embracing the Light of Christ

John 1:1-14

†

HYMN

Silent Night

Hymn 122

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright, Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace! Sleep in heavenly peace!

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight! Glories stream from Heaven afar, Heavenly Hosts sing Alleluia! Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light Radiant beams from Thy Holy Face With the dawn of redeeming grace. Jesus, Lord, at Thy Birth! Jesus, Lord, at Thy Birth!

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King: Christ the Savior is Born; Christ the Savior is born.

†

BENEDICTION

As you leave this place, may you go knowing that from generation to generation, we have been claimed and loved.
From generation to generation, God has been by our side.
From generation to generation, we are not alone.
The God of yesterday and the God of tomorrow knows you by name, loves you, and calls you forth, saying, “Go be the person you are called to be, love wildly, do justice, and come back soon.”
May it be so. Amen.

†

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Joy to the World!

Hymn 134

POSTLUDE

Go Tell It on the Mountain

David M. Cherwien

The church office will be closed from Monday, December 26 through Friday, December 30 and will reopen on Monday, January 2.
Have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from everyone at GPC!

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