

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
December 24, 2017 - 8:00 PM

SILENT MEDITATION: “Words can sometimes, in moments of grace, attain the quality of deeds.” - Elie Wiesel

PRELUDE *O Holy Night* by Adolphe Adam

INTROIT *God With Us* J. Raney

CALL TO WORSHIP Renea Schomer

L: During our Advent journey we’ve anticipated the coming Savior.

P: Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

L: We’ve anticipated the One who is called Wonderful Counselor

P: Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

L: We’ve anticipated the one who is called Mighty God.

P: Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

L: We’ve anticipated the One who is called Prince of Peace.

P: Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

L: We’ve anticipated the One who is called Everlasting Father.

P: Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

L: Tonight our waiting is over as we celebrate the One who is Emmanuel, our God, who is with us.

P: Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE Mali Beyer

CHORAL RESPONSE

ADVENT PRAYER

HYMN *Joy To the World* No. 134

CHRISTMAS READING “Pursuing Love” Parma-South Youth

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Shine into our hearts, Eternal Light. Illumine us with the radiance of your glory. Banish our fear and dispel our darkness, that we may trust you wholeheartedly and offer ourselves gladly in your service. Quiet us on this holy night that we may experience the miracle of the Incarnation anew: God becoming human, love taking on hate, weakness overcoming the powers of this world. May we see in the tiny face of this newborn the gift of the ages being offered to us -- life with you, life without end, life that is love and peace and joy. Amen.

“THE WORDS THAT MATTER”
JOHN 1:1-18

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

The Prophecy **Isaiah 61:1-3**
Hymn *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* No. 88 Verse 1

The Annunciation **Luke 1:26-38**
Hymn *O Little Town of Bethlehem* No. 121 Verses 1&4

The Decree of Caesar **Luke 2:1-7**
Anthem *How Quietly* J. Raney

The Shepherd’s Watch **Luke 2:8-20**
Hymn *Go, Tell it on the Mountain* No. 136 Verses 1&2

The King’s Star **Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11**
Hymn *We Three Kings of Orient Are* No. 151 Verse 1

THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER

THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offering Sentence

Offertory *All Is Well* arr. L. Larson

Doxology *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* No. 132 Verse 1

Prayer of Dedication

THE CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Hymn “Silent Night” No. 122

(words printed in bulletin)

THE LIGHT WITH US

Leader: Again Jesus said to them, “I am the Light of the World; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the Light of Life.”

People: That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you may have fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn *O Come, All Ye Faithful* No. 133 Verses 1&3

BENEDICTION *(please extinguish your candles at this time)*

POSTLUDE *Joy to the World* E.J. Schwartz

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SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

Vs. 1 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.

Vs. 2 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!”

Vs. 3 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.

Vs. 4 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.

Lighting Your Candle: The neighbor with the unlit candle should tilt their candle toward their neighbor with the lit candle to avoid candle wax from dripping.

At the conclusion of the service, please gently deposit your extinguished candles in the containers at the rear of the sanctuary. Thank you.

Poinsettia Plants: If you purchased a Memorial Poinsettia and indicated you would pick it up, you may do so following tonight’s service. If you are unable to do so at either service, the Poinsettias will be available for pick up on Tuesday in the Parlor. Any plants not picked up by Wednesday, December 27th will be delivered to a hospitalized or homebound member in need of cheer.

Merry Christmas!



ADVENT IV WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, December 24 10:00 AM

SILENT MEDITATION

“Is the Christ child weak or is the Christ child strong? Despite all our hideous commercialized, cartoonish attempts to discredit him, the truth is that we can do nothing to keep Christ out of

Christmas. For Christ comes. Ready, or not. Welcomed, or not. Hosted, or not. Recognized, or not. We can do nothing to keep Christ from coming into our world.”

GREETINGS AND LIFE OF THE CHURCH

(Please sign Attendance Pad)

PRELUDE *O Holy Night* by Adolphe Adam

INTROIT *God with Us, Emmanuel* J. Raney

CALL TO WORSHIP Jackie Mayer

L: During Advent we wait for the coming Savior who is our Everlasting Father.

P: From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

L: During Advent we look to the One who knows our deepest thoughts.

P: From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

L: During Advent we look to the One who cares for our deepest needs.

P: From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

L: During Advent we look to the One who knows our most pressing concerns.

P: From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

L: During Advent we look to the One who know our innermost being.

P: From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE Scott Diedrich

CHORAL RESPONSE

ADVENT PRAYER

+*HYMN #133 *O Come All ye Faithful*

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

+*GLORY BE TO THE FATHER

*Those who are able, please stand
+Appropriate time for the Ushers to seat latecomers

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord God of Christmas, we stand on the threshold of another year. We thank you for giving us another year of life. You have given us many gifts during the last year; and yet we realize that we have often failed to use those gifts or our lives as creatively and constructively as we might have.

Words of Reassurance

As Mary, Joseph and Jesus settled in Nazareth, help us, God, to let you take up residence in each one of our hearts. Forgive us our failures, our weaknesses, our fears and our doubts. In the name of the babe of Bethlehem, the Prince of Peace, we are now made new and whole. Amen.

CHILDREN’S CHAT

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD’S PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offering Sentence

Offertory *Bethlehem Child* C. Gray

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

*HYMN #146 *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 9:2-7 O.T. page 691

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON “Spotlights and Illumination”

*HYMN #128 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

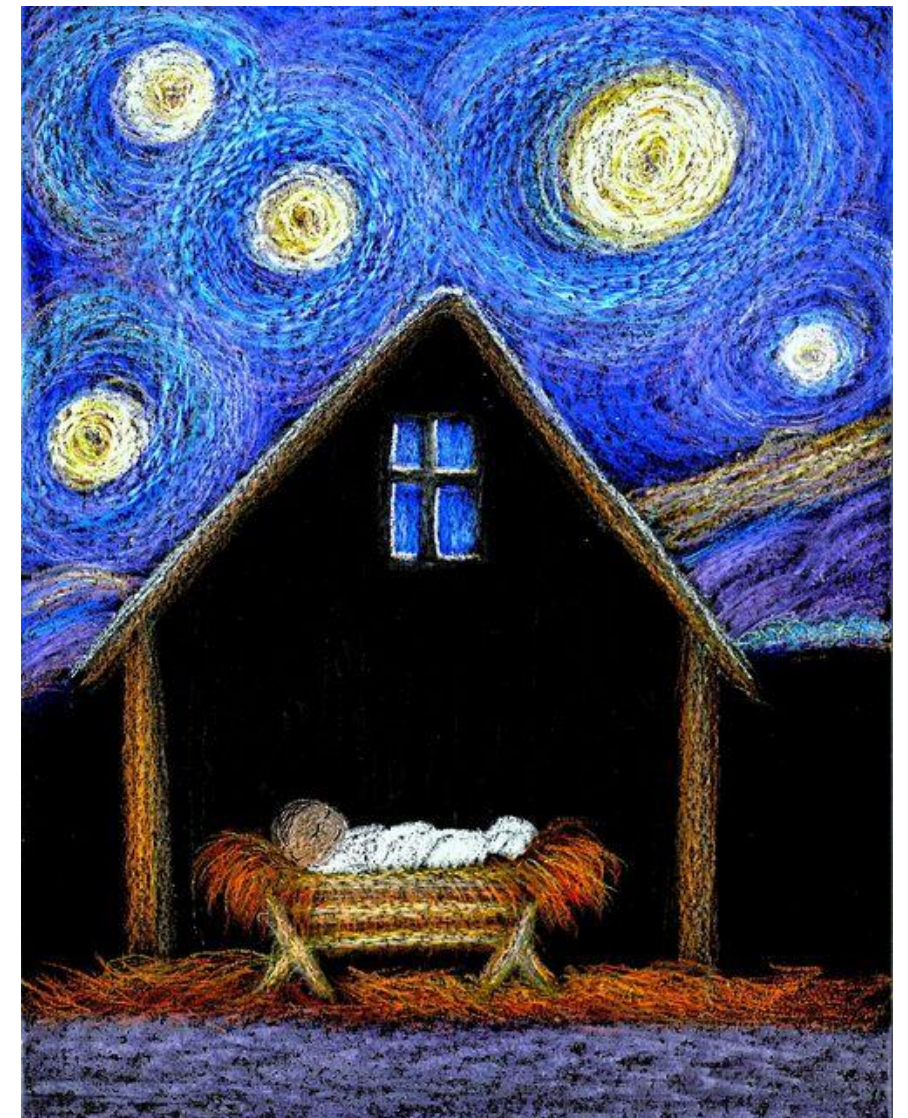
O Lord, How Shall I Meet You #104

You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill,
To bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.
In patient expectation we live for that great day.
When your renewed creation your glory shall display.

POSTLUDE *Joy to the World* arr. E.J. Schwarz

Today’s Ushers: Pat Moncol, Sally Moncol, Ron Shaffer,
Glenn Hess

Parma-South Presbyterian Church



Christmas Eve December 24, 2017

10:00 AM Service on pages 4 & 5

8:00 PM Service on pages 1 – 3