



# A FESTIVAL OF LIGHT

Christmas Eve: December 24, 2025

Six o'clock in the Evening

*Christmas is a season of praise and thanksgiving for the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ, which begins Christmas Eve and continues through Epiphany, January 6.*

## We Gather at The Manger

*The people enter in a spirit of reverence and **silently ponder** the birth of the Christ Child.*

### VOLUNTARIES

*People, Look East*

*Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming, Op. 122*

*Adeste Fidelis*

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

*BWV 608*

*Op. 28*

*Noël for the Flûte Stops*

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

*Messiah, HWV 56: The People that Walked in Darkness*

*The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. – Isaiah 9:2*

Charles Callahan

Johannes Brahms

Eric Thiman

Johann Sebastian Bach

Marcel Dupré

Louis Claude D'Aquin

Hugo Gehrke

Georg Frederic Handel

### CARILLON PEAL

*As the hour is pealed, we join those who worship with us online.*

### ✦ CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder Bob Booth

*Please stand.*

Sing a new song to God, all the earth!

**The oceans roar, the forests sing for joy.**

For God has shattered the yoke and tossed the boots of the oppressor into the fire.

**Glory to God in the highest,**

**and on earth peace among all people of goodwill!**

Do not be afraid, for good news thrills creation:

**Today our Savior has been born!**

### ✦ CAROL 133

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

## THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her Child.  
And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth,  
and laid him in a manger.

**Tonight, angels far and near sing tender lullabies;  
well-worn fabric full of years holds in the warmth of parental love;  
animals and shepherds crowd in tight,  
glowing with adoration,  
while a muffled cry squeezes out to greet the world.**

This holy night, we give thanks for every child among us.  
Each new birth, regardless of circumstances,  
reminds us of the preciousness of life,  
the potential of tomorrow,  
the promise of God.

**On this holy night,  
we light the Christ candle for the child-King,  
the infant-Redeemer,  
the lowly-Lord.**

**He is born and nothing will ever be the same!**

*Let us pray...*  
Incarnate God,  
born this day into the bustling heart of a peasant home to poor parents,  
make your home among the poor, the prisoner, the despised of every time and place.  
Let your good news resound from the lips of outcasts  
until all people have opened their homes and hearts to them in you and you in them  
**Amen.**

✦ CAROL 134

*Joy to the World*

ANTIOCH

## We Hear News of His Birth

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

*Let us pray:*  
Gracious God,  
by the gift of your Holy Spirit show us the Word made flesh –  
good news of great joy for all  
so that we may sing with the angels:  
glory in the highest and peace on earth;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**



CAROL 113

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA

PROPHECY – Isaiah 9:2-7

*Let us hear the Word of the Lord as Foretold by the Prophet Isaiah:*

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. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 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. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

CAROL 118

*While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*

CHRISTMAS

GOSPEL – Luke 2:1-14

*Let us hear the Word of the Lord as proclaimed in Luke's Gospel:*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

ANTHEM

*Sweet Little Jesus Boy*

Robert MacGimsey

*Sweet little Jesus Boy, they made you be born in a manger. Sweet little Holy Child, didn't know who You was. Didn't know you come to save us, Lord; to take our sins away. Our eyes was blind, we couldn't see, we didn't know who You was. Long time ago, you was born. Born in a manger low, Sweet little Jesus Boy. The world treat You mean, Lord; treat me mean, too. But that's how things is down here, we didn't know t'was You. You done showed us how, we is trying. Master, You done showed us how, even when you's dying. Just seem like we can't do right, look how we treated You. But please, sir, forgive us Lord, we didn't know 'twas You. Sweet little Jesus Boy, born long time ago. Sweet little Holy Child, and we didn't know who You was.*

HOMILY

**Do Not Be Afraid**

Dr. Guild

# We Respond to the Gift of Salvation

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Remember God's message: Do not be afraid!  
Therefore we pray with hope, peace, joy and love.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With hope, peace, joy and love  
we pray for the church...  
Lead us in the song of your angels,  
giving glory to you in the highest heaven,  
and proclaiming peace to your people on earth.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With hope, peace, joy and love,  
we pray for the earth...  
Heal the damage we have done to your world,  
so that the heavens may be glad, the earth rejoice,  
and the trees of the forest sing for joy.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With hope, peace, joy and love  
we pray for this community...  
Give welcome to those who are strangers,  
and shelter to those who have no place to sleep.  
Let all your children be counted among the blessed.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With hope, peace, joy and love,  
we pray for loved ones...  
Let your light shine on those who wait in darkness.  
Heal the sick and help all who suffer,  
so that they may rejoice in your saving love.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We ask these things with joy, O God,  
confident in the knowledge of your goodness;  
and we ask these things with hope,  
knowing that our loving redeemer is here –  
for unto us is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord,  
Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace,  
in whose holy name we pray. **Amen.**

## OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

*Tonight, we receive the CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING for past, present and future church leaders of the PCUSA. All undesignated gifts will benefit the mission, ministry and outreach of Peace Memorial.*

*Rejoicing in the birth of Christ our Savior,  
we give to God what we first received from God, the gifts of our lives.*

### OFFERTORY

### O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

*O holy night, the stars are brightly shining; it is the night of the dear Savior's birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till He appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn! Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night when Christ was born! O night divine! Led by the light of faith serenely beaming, with glowing hearts by His cradle we stand. So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming, there came the wise men from Orient land. The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger; in all our trials born to be our friend. He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger. Behold your King; before Him lowly bend! Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love and His gospel is peace. Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother, and in His name all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, let all within us praise His holy name. Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever! His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!*

### ✦ DOXOLOGY

### The First Nowell

### THE FIRST NOWELL

*Then entered in those wise men three, full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.*

✚ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**For gifts abundant and for grace abounding, we give you thanks, generous God. Bless the gifts we bring today. Use these gifts and our lives to be your gift of grace to others. Amen.**

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. The pastor may lift hands and keep them raised.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God:

When we were living in deep darkness, you sent us your light –  
a child called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of People.  
All authority in heaven and on earth rests upon his shoulders.

Therefore we praise you, joining the carol of the universal church and the heavenly choir:

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings,  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"*

MENDELSSOHN

Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior:

Born in a stable, he is our Good Shepherd, and your holy Lamb.  
Lying in a manger, he is the bread of life, food for our souls.  
Praised by the heavenly host, he is the hope and joy of all the earth.

Remembering your goodness and grace,  
we offer ourselves to you with gratitude as we share this joyful feast  
remembering the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and upon this bread and cup;  
make us one in the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Teach us to renounce worldly passions and frivolous pursuits.  
In this present age,  
let our lives be godly, upright, and self-controlled,  
while we await the coming in glory of our god and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Through the Lord Jesus Christ,  
in the unity of the Spirit,  
we bless you, God of glory, now and forever,  
even as we pray...

## LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## BREAKING OF THE BREAD

## THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*At the direction of an usher, worshipers are invited to make their way to the Chancel  
by way of the center aisle; dipping the wafer into the cup  
and returning to the pew by way of the side aisles.*

## ANTHEM

*Gesú Bambino*

Pietro A. Yon

*When blossoms flower e'er 'mid the snows, Upon a winter night, Was born the child, the Christmas  
rose, The king of love and light. The angels sang, the shepherds sang, The grateful earth rejoiced;  
And at his blessed birth the stars Their exultation voiced. O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.  
Again the heart with rapture glows To greet the holy night, That gave the world its Christmas rose,  
Its king of love and light. Let ev'ry voice acclaim his name, The grateful chorus swell From paradise  
to earth he came That we with him might dwell. Hosanna Christ the Lord! – Frederick H. Martens*

## COMMUNION PRAYER

**Guide us this night, by the light of that same star. Lead us to the manglers of this world, where  
uncertainty is met with the renewal life and the transformation of this world is most deeply  
felt in love, one with another. Be with us on this most wondrous of nights, we ask in Jesus'  
name. Amen.**

## We Go and Tell What We Have Seen

### ❖ CAROL

*Silent Night, Holy Night!*

STILLE NACHT

*Dr. Guild will pass the light of the Christ Candle by way of the center aisle.  
Worshipers will pass the light to one another  
by tipping the unlighted candle to the upright lighted candle.*

*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,  
heav'nly 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.*

### ❖ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*On this holy night of mystery, worshipers are encouraged to depart in reverence.*

### CHIMES OF THE HOLY TRINITY

❖ The people will please stand as they are able in body or spirit.  
*Assisting in the leadership of worship with Dr. Jeffrey G. Guild, Transitional Pastor are:  
Elder Bob Booth, Liturgist; Thomas Hall, Guest Bass Solist;  
Timothy Belk, Director of Music Ministries and Organist.*

*Some music for our worship experience is offered  
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*In accordance with IRS Guidelines, charitable contributions for the 2025 Fiscal Year  
received or postmarked on or before Tuesday, December 31 will be reflected  
on Annual Contribution Statements.*

### PEACE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CLEARWATER IN FLORIDA

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