PARK LAKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

309 East Colonial Dr. Orlando, FL 32801 407-841-6550

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2020

Order of Worship 5:30 pm

GATHERING

On This Day, Earth Shall Ring

Will Benton, organist

John 1:1-14

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Scripture Reading

Processional of the Christ Candle

Carol

Of the Father's Love Begotten Sarah Purser, soloist

Responsive Invocation

Emmanuel; God, you are with us.

We have heard the promise of the prophets;

We have caught the notes of an angel's song;

We have seen a star in the heavens, and we have believed.

Tonight we have come to be with you because you have come to be with us.

We seek an innocent, helpless baby in a crude manger;

We seek a Messiah who will rule with justice and mercy;

And you, who are the weakest and the strongest, the most humble and the most mighty, Have found us.

Now may we find ourselves.

Now may we love one another, now may we truly worship you,

Raising our voices with the heavenly host:

"Glory to God in the highest! Peace on earth and goodwill among all people." Amen.

Carol No. 133 O Come, All Ye Faithful

Lighting the Advent Candles

Jaroslav J. Vajda Advent Hymn Light the Candle Carl Schalk

Light the candle of CHRIST today,

The Giver of light is here!

Welcome the light we grope and sigh for, but only Christ can give.

Flicker and flame and glow—with light, light up the world around you.

Flicker and flame and glow—with light, light up the world around you.

Scripture Reading Isaiah 9:2-7 Pew Bible, O.T., page 600

Call to Reconciliation

This is the time of watching and waiting, the time for us to open our hearts to God.

Let us pray together saying,

Prayer of Confession

Emmanuel, God with us, we long to stand beside your manger,

to let the wonder and joy of your birth fill our lives with light and beauty.

But Lord, we find it so difficult to turn aside from the worries and fears

that fill our days and turn toward the truth of your love for us.

We so easily believe the world's boasts of power and might,

And quickly forget your promises of justice and peace.

Phil Lehenbauer

Pew Bible, N.T., page 86

We anxiously grab at all the glitter and gold we see around us, and forget the way you touch our lives with grace and love.

We hide in the darkness, afraid to look at ourselves in the light of your life. Lord, we come to Christmas, but we don't truly open our hearts and lives to the real reason you came to the world: to save us.

Forgive us, for our hiding, for our fears. Save us from our sins.

Transform us with the gift of your life, so that we might learn to praise and glorify you in everything we do. (silent prayer)

Declaration of Forgiveness

The good news is for every person: Jesus Christ was born to make a home in our hearts, to show us the way back to God.

Glory and praise to God, who in love brings us back home, fill us with peace, healing and hope.

Sharing Christmas Peace

Carol O Holy Night A. Adam, 1847; words P. Cappeau

Russell Stephens trans. J.S. Dwight

THE WORD

A Time with the Children

Carol No. 110 Love Has Come

Scripture Reading Luke 2:1-20 Pew Bible, N.T., page 54

Meditation God With Us In a Manger Dr. Dan DeBevoise

Offertory

Special Music Et in Terra Pax John Purifoy

Text adapted from Luke 2:13,14

Sarah Purser, Alice Fortunato & Russell Stephens

The Celebration of Communion

The Invitation
The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving
The Words of Institution
Sharing the Bread and Cup
Christmas Prayer

The Medley of Christmas and Lighting of Candles (bulletin, page 3)

Benediction

Postlude A Joyous Christmas John Leavitt

Will Benton, organist

Thank you to our Livestream Audio/Visual Team, John DiSalvo, Will DiSalvo, John Bowers, and Matt Cook, and to our music team Robb Ross, Will Benton, Chancel Choir Section Leaders, Alice Fortunato & Russell Stephens, guest soloist, Sarah Purser. Thank you to our Ushers and Session members who have assisted in worship this evening.

Medley of Carols & Lighting of the Congregational Candles

*Carol

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old, From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold; "Peace on the earth good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King"; The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled, And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world; Above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing, And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie; Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in.

Carol

Silent Night! Holy Night!

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.

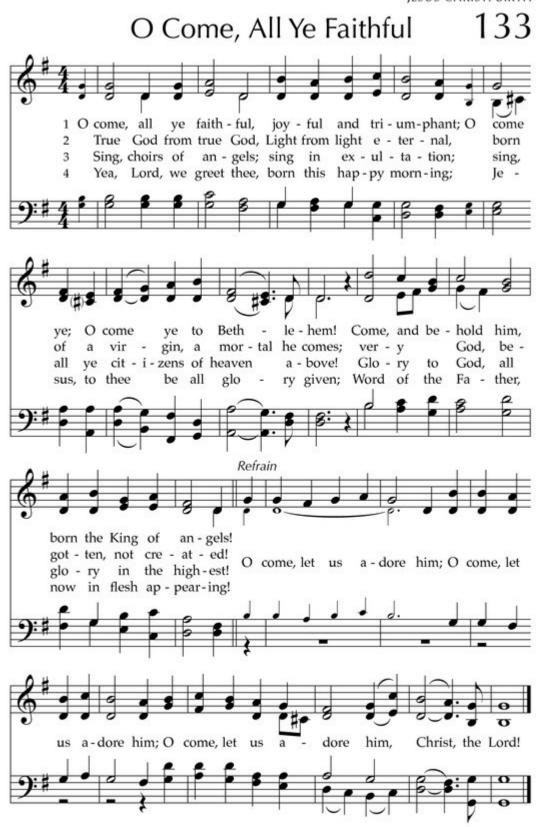
Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight, Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing; "Alleluia; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."

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.

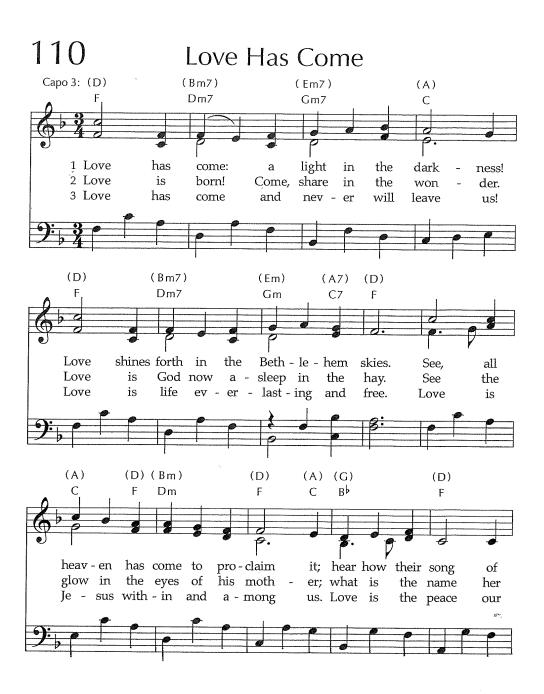
Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous Star, lend thy light; With the angels let us sing, alleluia to our King; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

Christmas Joy Offering

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.



From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.



Here is a chance to sing a familiar French carol tune with new words, the most important clearly being "Love." The senses "seen and heard" (as in Acts 4:20 and elsewhere) organize the first two stanzas, while the third holds the summary statement: "Love is the gift of Christmas."