

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not over come it.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. What has come into being through him was life and the life was the light of all people.



*Christmas Eve*  
*December 24, 2023 5:30 pm*

## Order of Worship

Christmas Eve  
December 24, 2023

5:30 p.m.

Prelude

Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne

arr. Jim Lucas

Carol No. 140

Once in Royal David's City

**solo verse 1, choir verse 2, choir and congregation verses 3&4**

Lighting of the Advent candles and the Christ candle

The world says, "All is lost." God says, "All is loved."

The darkness says, "The light is dying." The light says, "The fire is catching."

We pray for the holy hope of God.

**Come now, O Child of Mary. Come now, O Prince of Hope.**

A voice cries out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord."

Every valley shall be filled. Every heart shall be made whole,  
for peace is stronger than turmoil, and love is louder than hate.

We pray for the holy peace of God.

**Come now, O Child of Mary. Come now, O Prince of Peace.**

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice."

The world says, "Worry," and we say, "Rejoice."

The news says, "Fear," and we say, "Rejoice."

We pray for hope, peace, and joy.

**Come now, O child of Mary. Come now, O Prince of Joy.**

Isaiah spoke to a people called chosen, to a tribe called Israel, with a light of hope.

Gabriel came to a town called Nazareth, to a girl called Mary, with a light of joy.

Mary went to a place called Bethlehem, to a stable called a nursery,  
with a light of love. We rejoice with Mary, for Love has flesh.

**Come now, O Child of Mary. Come now, O Prince of Love.**

"Good news of great joy," the angel said, "for to you a savior is born."

"Peace on earth," the choir sang, "for God reigns in the highest."

"Follow me," the star beckoned, "For Hope was born in Bethlehem."

As we light the Christ candle, we watch for the Christmas story around us.

**Emmanuel has come and is coming. Come, all ye faithful, and worship God.**

\*Carol No. 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

Call to Confession and Unison prayer

The holy child of Bethlehem came to cast out sin and to bring to us the gift of salvation.  
Let us open our hearts to receive what God seeks to give.

**Holy God, you have come among us in Jesus Christ,  
hallowing our humanity and embodying love.**

**We confess that we have turned from the path Jesus has marked,  
failing to claim all you intend for us,  
withholding love from our neighbors and ourselves.**

**Forgive us. Be born anew in us, that our lives might reflect Christ's radiant light.**

(Time of silent prayer)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Peace on earth, mercy mild. God and sinners reconciled.

This is good news!

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Alleluia! Glory to God in the highest!**

\*Passing of the Peace

\*Carol No. 147

The First Nowell (verses 1-4)

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-7

Solo

Some Children See Him  
Soloist - Ali Molnar

Arr. by Christopher Marlowe

Children's Christmas Story

Carol No. 115

Away in a Manger

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:8-20

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Christmas Eve Offering

Born This Night  
Chancel Choir

Douglas E. Wagner

Scripture Reading

John 1:1-14

*\*Please stand as you are able in body or in spirit.*

Solo

O Holy Night  
Russell Stephens

Adolphe Adam

## The Celebration of Communion

Invitation

Words of Institution

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sharing of Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion

## \*The Medley of Carols and Lighting of Candles

### 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.*

### 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.*

## 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.*

## Benediction

Postlude

A Joyous Christmas  
Will Benton, Organist

arr. John Leavitt

*\*Please stand as you are able in body or in spirit.*

Merry Christmas!

**We are grateful for any year end donations you are able to make to Park Lake Presbyterian Church.** Many people also make special year end gifts as a part of their financial plans.



- If mailing, **donations must be postmarked by Saturday, December 30, 2023.**
- **Or received in the church office by 12:00 pm on Thursday, December 28, 2023,** if you wish to drop your donation off at the church office.
- Place in the offering plate, on or before December 31.

You may also give through **December 31, 2023** via “Online Giving” on our website, **[plpc.org](http://plpc.org).**



## **Holiday Office Hours**

**The Church office will be closed:**

**Monday, December 25**

**Tuesday, December 26**

**Monday, January 1**

**The Child Care Center will be closed:**

**Monday, December 25 through Tuesday, January 2**

## Church Staff

Co-pastors	Rev. Dr. Helen DeBevoise Rev. Dr. Dan DeBevoise
Parish Associate	Rev. Dr. Linda Wright Simmons
Organist, Director FAVO	Will Benton
Choir Director	Robb Ross
Child Care Center	Director, Barbara Twachtman
Financial Administrator	Linda Castle
Church Secretary	Carol Bookhardt
Maintenance	Keith Bridges
Librarian	Alice Schmidt
Nursery Staff	Barbara Boyce
Church Missionaries	
Madagascar	Dan and Elizabeth Turk
Mozambique	Sebber Banda Rev. Carlos Faquione

