

# Christmas Eve Candlelight and Carol Service

7:00 p.m.

December 24, 2011

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## PRELUDE

(see insert)

## \*PROCESSIONAL CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful

*Adeste Fideles*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!

*Refrain*

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

*Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

*Refrain*

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

### CONFESSION OF SIN

Almighty God, who sent your Son to earth to be born in a shed, lit by a star that only the wise could see, sung by angels that only the humble could hear; forgive us the folly of celebrating his coming with empty busyness and cheap display. May we not be so crowded with the noise and clutter of the inn as to find no room to lodge him who comes to the quiet and waiting heart, as to a mother in the stillness of the night. Amen.

### DECLARATION OF PARDON

## \*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

Away in a Manger

*Cradle Song*

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

## **NATIVITY TABLEAU**

(see insert)

**\*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL** O Little Town of Bethlehem  
O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

*St. Louis*

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

### **THE CHRISTMAS LESSONS**

(see insert)

### **MEDITATION**

“Behold!”

Dr. Williams

*“Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:10-11*

## **THE PRAYERS**

### **OFFERTORY**

Thou Child Divine  
Jennifer Perkins, soprano; Vince Shen, tenor

Schultz

**\*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL** Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

*Tempus Adest Floridum*

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;  
There he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.  
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.

Angels sang about his birth, wise men sought and found him;  
Heaven's star shone brightly forth, glory all around him.  
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing;  
All the plains were lit that night, all the hills were ringing.

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;  
He is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger.  
Son of God, of humble birth, beautiful the story;  
Praise his name in all the earth, hail the King of glory!

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(see insert)

### \*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL      Silent Night, Holy Night

*Stille Nacht*

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

### \*RECESSIONAL CAROL      Joy to the World!

*Antioch*

(Beginning with the front pews, please follow the choir from the sanctuary using the outside and center aisles while singing “Joy to the World!”)

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns: let us our songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

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\*Congregation please stand.

Dr. Stephen Williams, Minister; Rev. William Shelburne, Sr., Associate Minister; Wes Perkins, Director of Music; Jerry Myers, Organist.

## THE CHRISTMAS LESSONS

“God announces that the Seed of Woman will bruise the Serpent’s Head”

Genesis 3:8-15

*Of the Father’s love begotten, Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending he,*

“The Peace that Christ will bring is Foreshown”

Isaiah 11:1-9

*Of the things that are, that have been, And that future years shall see,  
Evermore and evermore!*

“Luke tells of the Birth of Jesus”

Luke 2:1-7

*O ye heights of heaven adore him; Angels hosts, his praises sing;  
Powers, dominions, bow before him, And extol our God and King;*

“The Shepherds go to the Manger”

Luke 2:8-16

*Let no tongue on earth be silent, Every voice in concert ring,  
Evermore and evermore!*

“John unfolds the Great Mystery of the Incarnation”

John 1:1-14

*Christ, to thee with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unwearied praises be:  
Honor, glory, and dominion, And eternal victory, Evermore and Evermore!*

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Immediately following the service, the congregation is invited to a reception in Stewart Hall hosted by Presbyterian Women. Special thanks to the members of Congregation Mickve Israel for staffing the nursery for preschool age children.

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### Invitation to the Lord's Table

#### Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.  
People: And also with you.  
Minister: Lift up your hearts.  
People: We lift them to the Lord.  
Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

#### The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

#### Communion of the People

##### Prayer

Minister: Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
People: And all that is within me, bless God's holy name!  
Minister: Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
People: And forget not all God's benefits.

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All baptized Christians, whether or not they are members of this congregation, are warmly invited to share in the Lord's Supper. Proceed towards the chancel using the center aisle and then, after communing, return to your seat by way of the outer aisles.

The method of communion is by intinction. Receive the bread from an elder in the chancel and then dip a portion of the bread into one of the communion chalices. If you are unable to come forward, an elder will bring the communion elements to you.