

Thank you for joining us in worship on this blessed night. Know that whoever you are and wherever you are in your journey of life and faith, you are welcome here!

***PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING***

All of tonight's offerings will benefit Klingberg Family Center. You are welcome to use the Pew Envelopes for this purpose.

**THE CANDLE LIGHT CEREMONY:**

The candles of the candle lighters are lit from the Christ Candle, which symbolizes our Lord, Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. They will bring their light to the first worshiper in each pew. **REMEMBER THAT THE LIGHTED CANDLE REMAINS UPRIGHT, AND THE UNLIGHTED CANDLE IS TIPPED TO THE LIGHTED. PLEASE BE CAREFUL.** Candles are to be extinguished after the reading that follows the singing of "Silent Night." Candles should be placed in the aluminum receptacles when exiting.

**WHO MAY HAVE CANDLES.** The church's policy, for safety reasons, is that **NO ONE UNDER THE AGE OF TEN (10)** may receive a candle to hold during the candle lighting ceremony. However, a parent or adult guardian may share the holding of a candle with a young child during the candle light portion of the service. We hope that everyone will understand the need for this policy and will comply.

Thank you!

## CHRISTMAS EVE – 7:30 PM

*The earth has grown old with its burden of care  
But at Christmas it always is young,  
The heart of the jewel burns lustrous and fair  
And its soul full of music breaks the air,  
When the song of angels is sung.  
- Phillip Brooks*

CHIMES

Bob Oswald

PRELUDE     *“Lo How A Rose E'er Blooming/Good Christians All Rejoice”*  
Dillon Bowen - trumpet, Zachary Powell - horn, Bob Oswald - trombone,  
Rose Minichiello - baritone sax.

GREETING

CHORAL INTROIT     *On a Silent Night*     arr. Joyce Eilers  
Junior Choir and Senior Choir Ladies  
Betsy Ash, Dir.

CALL TO WORSHIP (**responsively**)

adapted from *First Coming* by Madeleine L'Engle

God did not wait until the world was ready,  
till the nations were at peace.

**God came when the heavens were unsteady and  
prisoners cried for release.**

God did not wait for the perfect time.

**God came when the need was deep and great.**

**God dined with sinners in all their grime.**

God did not wait until the hearts were pure.

**In JOY God came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.**

**To a world of anguish and shame.**

**God came in JOY, and his light never goes out.**

God came to a world which did not mesh;  
to heal its ill, and shield its scorn.

**In the mystery of the Word made flesh,  
the maker of the stars was born.**

We cannot wait until the world is whole,  
to raise our songs with joyful voice,  
to share our grief, to touch our pain.

**God came in grace, with love. Rejoice! Rejoice!**

\*HYMN 132 (*Pilgrim*) *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CANDLE LIGHTERS: Rosemary Worth & Family

Hope, peace, joy, and love. Four candles, four promises continually offered to us by God, and all of them manifest in this one we light tonight: the Christ candle. In Christ we find the hope of transformation, the peace that follows justice, the joy of self-fulfillment in community, and the love that encompasses us in all our diversity, empowering us to make our own unique contribution to this world. In Christ we find light and life, and the courage to be like him, answering his call and following in his footsteps.

HYMN (seated) *“A Candle is Burning”*

**We honor our Messiah with Christ candle’s flame,**

**Our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.**

**O Come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night,**

**As God comes among us, the Christian’s true light.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

**We rejoice in God’s steadfast presence in our lives, and in God’s unique presence in the life of Jesus of Nazareth—born of Mary, growing through childhood into an adult ministry, in all his life manifesting the peace, love, and justice of God; his voice undimmed by the centuries his call and his promise as clear to us as it was to his disciples so long ago. Come to us, Lord Jesus, Be born in us this night, in our hearts, our minds, our lives. May the light of your life be kindled in us, And lead us to the shining truth, of God with us, God for us, God in us. Amen.**

ANTHEM *Still, Still, Still*

trad. German Carol  
arr. Kathy Moklebust  
Cherry Brook Chimes

THE PROMISE OF HIS COMING

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 11:1 – 4

HYMN 110 (*Pilgrim*) *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

## THE HOLY BIRTH

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:1 – 7

ANTHEM *Celtic Christmas Lullaby*

Joel Raney  
Senior Choir  
Linda Ripley - Flute

## GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:8 – 16

ANTHEM *Mary, Did You Know?*

Lowry/Greene  
Linda Ripley – Flute and Vocals

A CHRISTMAS REFLECTION:

HYMN **129** (*Pilgrim*) *It Came Upon A Midnight Clear*

THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING *A Child is Born*

Althouse  
Senior Choir

\*DOXOLOGY (*Pilgrim #515*)

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in **unison**)

**Glory to God in the highest heaven! We praise your name with our offerings. We give these gifts in recognition of Jesus, a tiny babe who from humble birth was created great in your light. Thank you, Gracious God, for pure, unbounded love wrapped in clothes laying in a manger - a gift so great to share that it could not be contained. Let the joy we feel in our hearts overflow in unending praise. Amen.**

## THE CANDLE LIGHT CEREMONY

ANTHEM *O Holy Night*

Adam/Dressler  
Bill Thomas – Soloist

**\*HYMN** Silent 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.**

**\*THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL:** John 1: 1 – 14

**\*CANDLES EXTINGUISHED**

**\*HYMN** *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 Earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.**

**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.**

\*CLOSING PRAYER (in **unison**)

**Glory to God, whose power working in us,  
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.  
Glory to God from generation to generation,  
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

\*BENEDICTION

\*RESPONSE

\*POSTLUDE      *Donkey Carol*

Rutter

**WELCOME** Our appreciation is extended to all participating in tonight's service:

*Members of the Senior choir*

*Members of the Junior Choir, directed by*

*Members of the Ensemble.*

*Members of the Cherry Brook Chimes Bell Choir.*

*Lights Dimmer:* Dr. Larry Carlton.



**We are grateful** to those donors of the memorial poinsettias that grace our church tonight. Please leave your plant until after the **Christmas Day** service. Any plants left after worship on Christmas Day will be available for pick-up during office hours this coming week or next Sunday.

Ministers	Every Member
Pastor	Rev. Rushan Sinnaduray
Director of Christian Education & Youth	Sarah W. LeGeyt
Organist, Director of Music	Mary Lou Keefe
Duty Deacons	Donna Hammond and Larry Minichiello
Duty Trustee	Phil LeGeyt

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