



# **CHRISTMAS EVE**

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

DECEMBER 24, 2023

4:00 P.M. & 6:00 P.M.

# *Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion*

## THE SILENT MEDITATION UPON ENTERING THE SANCTUARY

*She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus,  
for He will save His people from their sins.*

— MATTHEW 1:21



## APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

### The Prelude

*Pastoral Symphony from Messiah*

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

*God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*

*O Holy Night*

Robert Scott, *flute*

George Friedrich Handel

Arr. Mary Jean Simpson

Arr. Lani Smith

*Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall become straight,  
and the rough places shall become level ways,  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.*

Luke 3:5-6

### The Eve of Christmas

*The Christ Candle in the center of the wreath proclaims the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, Who gives the Light of Salvation to those who walked in sin's darkness. It is lighted on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.*

## The Chiming of the Hour

† **The Call to Worship** – Micah 5:2; Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 1:21; Luke 2:14  
(*congregation reads bold print*)

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for Me one who is to be Ruler in Israel whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

**For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given;  
and the government shall be upon His shoulder,  
and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.

**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace  
among those with whom He is pleased!**

•† **The Carol No. 140**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

† **The Prayer of Adoration and Invocation**

† **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father Which art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in 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, for ever. Amen.**

## HEARING GOD'S VOICE

**The Anthem** (4:00 p.m.)

*In the Bleak Mid-winter*

arr. Forrest

In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.  
Snow had fallen snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak mid-winter long ago.  
Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain,  
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.  
In the bleak mid-winter, a stable place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ.  
What can I give Him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part.  
Yet what I can I give Him, give my heart.

† **The Hymn No. 125** (6:00 p.m.) *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

PICARDY

† **The Reading of God's Word** – 1 John 4:7-12

pew Bible page 1304

**The Homily**

**SO, WHAT IS LOVE?**

Rev. Bill Clark, *Interim Minister*

## COMMUNING WITH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND HIS PEOPLE

### **The Invitation to and Fencing of the Table**

*Who should come to the Lord's table? Those who are displeased with themselves because of their sins, but who nevertheless trust that their sins are pardoned and that their remaining weakness is covered by the suffering and death of Christ, and who also desire more and more to strengthen their faith and to lead a better life, and who are members in good standing of an evangelical church.  
(from the Heidelberg Catechism)*

† **The Confessing of Our Faith** (*congregation reads bold type*)

What do you believe about God the Father?

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth.**

What do you believe about God the Son?

**I believe in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord:**

**Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin Mary;**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried;**

**He descended into Hell; the third day He rose again from the dead;**

**He ascended into Heaven; and sitteth on the right hand**

**of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come**

**to judge the quick and the dead.**

What do you believe about God the Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints;**

**the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.**

**Amen.**

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

† **The Prayer of Humble Access**

**The Words of Institution**

**The Serving of the Supper**

*What Child Is This?*

arr. Paul Edwards and

Gordon Schuster

*Please partake of the elements as you receive them,  
just as we must each receive Christ for our own salvation by faith.*

## The Solo

*Sweet Little Jesus Boy*  
Mike Schrier, *bass-baritone*

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'd 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 don't know who You is.

You done told us how we is a trying.  
Master, You done showed us how even when You was 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.

## The Organ Interlude and Passing of Light

*In Him was life, and the light was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. The true light which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (John 1:4-5, 9, 12-13)*

## FOLLOWING GOD'S SPIRIT

### † The Carol No. 162

*Silent Night! Holy Night!*

STILLE NACHT

### † The Closing Prayer (in unison) – based on Luke 2:29-32

Lord, now let Your servants depart in peace, according to Your Word;  
for our eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face  
of all peoples, a Light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your  
people Israel. Amen.

### † The Benediction

*Please extinguish candles.*

### The Postlude

*Fantasia on ADESTE FIDELIS*

David Blackwell

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son  
from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

John 1:14



**Your offering may be given to one of the ushers at the exit doors.**

The Christmas Eve offering provides monthly supplemental, temporary, or one-time assistance to our retired and disabled pastors, missionaries, pastors without call, church lay workers, and their widows and dependent children who have low incomes. The Christmas Eve offering this year is given to help these dear brothers and sisters who have served so faithfully for the advancement of God's Kingdom.

*To* all who are spiritually weary and seek rest;  
to all who mourn and long for comfort;  
to all who struggle and desire victory;  
to all who sin and need a Savior;  
to all who are strangers and want fellowship;  
to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;  
and to all who will come,  
this church opens wide her doors and offers welcome  
in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.



*A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)*

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