

Be pleased, O Lord, to accept our sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving.  
To You be all honor and glory, in the Church and in the world, now and forever. Amen.

**SHARING THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD**

**Sharing Our Gifts With Others**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**The Offertory** "The Snow is Dancing" Claude Debussy

**\*New Testament Charge** John 12:46-47  
Matthew 5:14-16

**Sharing the Light of Christ**

**\*Congregational Carol 60** Silent Night, Holy Night *Stille Nacht*

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude** Joy to the World Arr. Lowell Mason

As you depart from the service please extinguish your candle and leave it in the box at the door.

A nursery is provided this evening for parents who might wish to use it.

All offerings this evening, unless otherwise designated, will be used for the Pastor/Session Fund to assist church members, residents of Lowndes County, and passers-through who have emergency financial needs.

**Assisting In Worship Today**

Richard Hart.....Minister  
Anghaarad Teague Dees.....Minister  
Edward Neeman.....Pianist  
David Armond.....Usher Team  
Lisa Pearce, Billy Ryan

\*All who are able may stand.



**Trinity Presbyterian Church**  
**Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service**  
**2016**



*Christmas Eve Service*  
*December 24, 2016*

**Words of Welcome**

**Silent Meditation**

“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory,  
the glory as of the Father’s only Son, full of grace and truth.” ~ John 1:14

**Prelude** Fugue, Op. 87, No. 7, " The Bells" Dmitri Shostakovich

**Lighting of the Candles**

**PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD**

**\*Congregational Carol 41** O Come, All Ye Faithful *Adeste fideles*

**Lighting the Christ Candle** Jeremy and Lisa Ware, Preslie and Levi

Rejoice, and do not be afraid! For see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people:  
those who have walked in the gloom of discouragement and despair have seen a great Light.

(Singing) **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Rejoice, rejoice, and do not be afraid! For those who have lived in lands shadowed by oppression  
and unspeakable violence, even on them the Light has shined.

(Singing) **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Again I say, rejoice! For though the night of grief and sorrow should cover us, and the Light  
around us become night, still there is One for whom even the night is as bright as the day.

(Singing) **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

And yet again I tell you, rejoice! For though hate and fear reign today, in truth the shadow is  
only a small and passing thing. The light of love shines even in darkness, and darkness cannot  
overcome it.

(Singing) **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**O Come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here.**

**O, drive away the shades of night and pierce the clouds and bring us Light!**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**Call to Confession**

**Gracious God, who welcomes all through Your unconditional love, we confess that we have not  
made room in our hearts for the Christ child. We find the coming birth yet another event in  
our crowded lives.**

**Like the innkeeper who had to refuse the holy couple a decent shelter, we find ourselves  
juggling people and obligations, with little patience. We are often torn between compassion  
for the needy and the reality of what little we can do to bring comfort to all who make  
requests of us.**

**Like the innkeeper, we often relegate Christ to some out-of-the-way corner of our lives without  
really intending to do so.**

**Like Bethlehem at census time, we have little room for anything we have not made plans for.**

**O Lord, in whom all hearts find shelter, have mercy upon us. Help us, in the midst of our  
busy, burdened lives, to welcome the One who always has time for us.**

(Silence for personal prayer)

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

**RECEIVING THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD**

**Old Testament Prophecy** Isaiah 9:2-7

**New Testament Announcement** Luke 2:1-7

**The Sermon** “The Empire Strikes Out” Pastor Hart

**Solo** Gesù Bambino Pietro Yon  
*M. Anghaarad Teague Dees - Soprano*

**\*A Creed for Christmas**

**I believe in God the Father, Creator of all things, and in Jesus Christ my Lord, who was  
conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, announced by angels, worshiped by  
the wise men, who lived to suffer, die, and rise again, to free me from sin, death and the  
power of evil.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, who has brought me to faith in the Christ and whose continuous  
work leads me to lay before the feet of Christ my worship, my life, my love, and to live  
under Him as my King, both now and forevermore. Amen.**

**\*Congregational Carol 31** Hark! The Herald Angels Sing *Mendelssohn*

**Invitation to the Lord’s Table** Come unto Him George F. Handel  
*M. Anghaarad Teague Dees - Soprano*

**Words of Institution**

**Prayer of Consecration and The Lord’s Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be  
done on 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, forever. Amen.**

**Sharing the Bread & Cup**

Communion will be served tonight by the ancient practice of *intinction*. When invited by the Ushers please  
come forward down the center aisle to the Communion Table. Receive a napkin and bread. Dip the bread in the  
cup and eat, returning to your seat by the side aisle.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Shepherd of Israel and Keeper of Christ’s flock;

**With Bethlehem shepherds of old we come to see what has happened  
and consider what has been made known to us.**

We rejoice in the birth of Jesus who embodies both the Good Shepherd and  
the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

**For His obedience to Your saving purpose we are deeply grateful.**

That You became involved in the sin and suffering of our world we are astonished.

**That You continue to draw us together as Your flock by the Holy Spirit we are comforted, as  
well as emboldened to speak His peace and share His love with a lost and hurting world. (over)**