

Prayer After All Are Served

Dear Lord, may this eternal truth be always on our hearts: that God who breathed this world into being, placed stars into the heavens, and designed a butterfly's wing, is the God who entrusted His son to the care of ordinary people and became vulnerable that we might know how strong is the wonder of love; a mystery so deep it is impossible to grasp; a mystery so beautiful it is impossible to ignore. Amen.

The Sharing of the Light

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—

on them light has shined.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth

Unison Prayer

May the light of Christ shine brightly within us and may we share that light with all people near and far. And may the love that brings the blessing of peace dwell within us this Christmas and everyday. Amen.

***Passing of the Light Carol No. 60** Silent Night, Holy Night *Stille Nacht*

***Benediction**

***Response to the Benediction Carol No. 40** Joy to the World! *Antioch*

***Postlude**

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.

*All who are able may stand.



Assisting In Worship Today

Richard Hart.....Minister
Anghaarad Teague Dees.....Minister
Edward Neeman.....Pianist
Pat Collins.....Usher Team
Noelle Collins, Charlie Oliver, Kelly Wicks

Trinity Presbyterian Church
Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

2017



The Adoration of the Shepherds by Bartolome Esteban Murillo

December 24, 2017

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 Ave Maria Arr. Franz Liszt

Lighting of the Candles

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

***Congregational Carol No. 41** O Come, All Ye Faithful *Adeste fideles*

Lighting the Christ Candle The Cross Family

Let us pray: Holy God of Love,
There is light in our lives because of the abundance of Your steadfast love. A love so vast, so deep, so real, that You became one of us. May we live within the power of this love. And may we share its light with a world where too many dwell in darkness.

God of promise, God of salvation, into our darkness come. Amen.

***Christmas Carol No. 22** Angels, from the Realms of Glory *Regent Square*

*A Prayer for Christmas

O come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel! God with us, You came to us long ago as a helpless babe, as one in need of human love and care. You taught us how to love and care for one another. Help us to hold on to childlike wonder, amazement, and love, and help us to love one another all year long. Guide our feet into the way of peace, as only the Prince of Peace can lead us, by laying down our lives for one another and serving one another. In the name of Christ, Emmanuel, God with Us, we pray. Amen.

Four Lessons and Carols for Christmas Eve

The Prophecy Isaiah 9:2-7
Carol No. 48 “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

The Birth Luke 2:3-16
Carol No. 31 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

The Visitors Matthew 2:1-12
Carol No. 44 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

The Mystery John 1:1-14
Special Music Gesù Bambino Pietro Yon
M. Anghaarad Teague Dees - Soprano, Frank Kilgard - violin

Offering and Dedication

Offertory O Holy Night Arr. Sally DeFord
Denise Dupras - Soprano, Bryan Wright - Tenor

*A Christmas Affirmation - from the Scots Confession

When the fullness of time came God sent His Son, His eternal wisdom, the substance of His own glory, into this world, who took the nature of humanity from the substance of a woman, a virgin, by means of the Holy Ghost. And so was born the “just seed of David,” the “Angel of the great counsel of God,” the very Messiah promised, whom we confess and acknowledge to be Emmanuel, true God and true human, two perfect natures united and joined in one person.

We acknowledge and confess that this wonderful union between the Godhead and the humanity in Christ Jesus did arise from the eternal and immutable decree of God from which all our salvation springs and depends.

The Lord’s Supper

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gathering around the table as we celebrate new life beginning, we remember so many stories shared around tables; tables where bread is broken and cup is poured out, where families gather and generations share, where stories are remembered, refined, reshaped.

(singing) **Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; Ponder nothing earthly minded, For with blessing in His hand. Christ our God to earth descendeth; Our full homage to demand.**

Gathering around the table on this holy night, we remember the story of the sacred daring to share our life, the story of the holy donning human flesh and dwelling among us, a story that is at once both ethereal and earthly.

(singing) **King of kings, yet born of Mary, As of old on earth He stood, Lord of lords in human vesture, In the body and the blood. He will give to all the faithful. His own self for heavenly food.**

Gathering around the table on this Christmas night, we break the bread and remember the paradox that it is in our brokenness that we become whole; we fill this cup and remember the abundance discovered in each new sharing of our sacred stories.

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

Together, around the table, we pray: Come, holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be opened, that we might recognize the Spirit rising in our midst indeed, in one another. Come, holy Spirit, come.

(singing) **Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King!**

God with us, in whom there is neither Jew nor Gentile; in the land of Christ’s birth come to the hungry places, bringing hope, come to the dark places, bringing justice, come to the lonely places, bringing love. Come again in Bethlehem, come in us, and through us, and even despite us. That all may join the angels’ song.

(singing) **Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing; Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord the newborn King. Gloria, in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

Breaking of the Bread and Sharing of the 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.