

A Service of Lessons and Carols
Christmas Eve



Tryon United Methodist Church

Christmas Eve Service

5:00 p.m.

December 24, 2024

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GATHERING

Christmas Carol Medley

Pam McNeil, organ
Breanna Cochran, piano

PRELUDE

He Shall Reign Forevermore

Mark McCall & Kevin McCall, guitar

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lynnette Sills

Pastor: Do not be afraid, for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy.

People: **To us is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.**

Pastor: This will be a sign for you; you will find a child wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.

People: **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, Peace! Amen.**

WELCOME

Rev. Lynnette Sills

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: THE CHRIST CANDLE

Nancy Hiley & Congregation

Liturgist: The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

People: **He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.**

Liturgist: He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

People: **But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name he gave the right to become children of God, who was born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.**

Liturgist: And the word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,

People: **glory as of the only son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

Liturgist: As we light the Christ candle,

People: **We celebrate the end of Advent and the arrival of Christ and Christmas.**

Liturgist: Let us remember how our savior came once as a baby,

All: **that, through him, the world might be saved, and how he will return one day in glory. Amen.**

*HYMN

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

229

PRAYER

The Bidding Prayer

Rev. Lynnette Sills

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Rev. Lynnette Sills

Pastor: What can we offer to God in return for the gift of Christ Jesus?

People: **We can offer our love, our joy, our hope, our peace. We can offer our commitment to share these gifts with the ones Jesus came to serve and save.**

Pastor: As we worship you anew this evening, open our hearts to those you came to save -- especially the least and the lost.

People: **May the gifts we offer into your service continue the work you began in a manger so many years ago. Amen.**

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

On Christmas Night

Chancel Choir

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

LESSONS AND CAROLS

LESSON ONE	Isaiah 9:2, 6-7	Richard McKee
	The prophet announces the birth of a King to a people in darkness.	
LESSON TWO	Micah 5:2-5a	Holly McKee
	The King is coming and will usher in a reign of justice for the poor and peace for all of God's creation.	
HYMN	<i>Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (Verses 1 & 2)</i>	216
LESSON THREE	Luke 1:26-38	Nancy Hiley
	The angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will give birth to God's promised son.	
LESSON FOUR	Luke 2:1-7	Steven Porter
	Against a backdrop of emperors and taxes, Jesus is born.	
HYMN	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem (Verses 1, 2 & 4)</i>	230
LESSON FIVE	Luke 2:8-16	Richard McKee
	The shepherds go to see the savior of the world, lying in a manger.	
HYMN	<i>Away in a Manger</i>	217
LESSON SIX	Luke 2:17-20	Holly McKee
	What the shepherds shared. What Mary kept close.	
MUSIC	Go, Tell It on the Mountain	Kevin McCall & Mark McCall
LESSON SEVEN	Matthew 2:1-11	Rev. Lynnette Sills
	The Magi. The Star. Herod. Gifts.	
HYMN	<i>Joy to the World (Verses 1 & 4)</i>	246

A SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And, also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: How can we thank you, O God? For the sun and moon and stars, for breath and life and all things good, for your steadfast promise and your faithful love, for the day that is surely coming when all things will be made new. With saints, angels, and with the whole of creation, we join the ancient and eternal hymn:

People: **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Pastor: We give you thanks, Holy God, for Jesus, who came to be your living word, to baptize us with Spirit and fire, to feed the hungry, to humble the mighty, and to announce the good news of your coming realm. With thanksgiving, we remember how, when the hour had come, Jesus took his place at the table with the apostles.

BREAKING THE BREAD

Pastor: On the night he was betrayed he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take, eat, this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

When the supper was over, he took the cup and gave thanks, saying, "Drink this all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

With thanks and praise we offer ourselves to you, sharing this holy meal.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us -- Make us one in the Spirit, one in the church, and one with Christ our Lord.

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

Pastor: This is the table of the Lord. Everyone is invited to receive the gifts from this table. You do not have to be a Methodist or a member of this church or any church. We are all children of God and on this holy evening, we are all invited as Gods' children to share in the gifts that are given.

We will be coming out to you to pass the plates with the cups and bread. Please pass the elements to your neighbor, as we serve each other.

When everyone has received the bread and cup, we will share the meal together.

Pastor: Please take the elements you have received and know that they are blessed by our Holy Creator. Receive them now.

Pastor: The Body of Christ, the Bread of Life given to you. **Amen.**

Pastor: The Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation given to you. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THANKS

Pastor: Most Bountiful God, we give you thanks for the world you have created, for the gift of life, and for giving yourself to us in Jesus Christ,

People: **whose holy life, suffering and death, and glorious resurrection have delivered us from slavery to sin and death.**

Pastor: We thank you that in the power of your Holy Spirit,

People: **you have fed us in this Sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. We pray these things in your name, and we pray now the prayer you taught your disciples to pray,**

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

SOLO

Oh Holy Night

Tena Greene-Porter

THE OFFERING OF LIGHT

Rev. Lynnette Sills

*HYMN

Silent Night

Pam McNeil, organ

**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!**

At the beginning of the last verse, please raise your candles.

*BENEDICTION

Rev Lynnette Sills

Walk in darkness no longer.

We will walk in the light of Christ.

Sing of Christ's birth with the choirs of angels.

We will sing with the heavenly host.

Go and proclaim the good news,

Jesus Christ is born!

Go in peace. **Amen.**

Postlude

Angels We Have Heard on High

Pam McNeil, organ
Breanna Cochran, piano

****Please stand as you are able***

You may take your candles with you if you wish to keep them. Or you may extinguish them and leave them in the metal bowls located at each exit.