

CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24TH, 2016

5:30 P.M.

PRELUDE *SILENT NIGHT* arr. Carter

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE *The Allen Family*
Hear the Word of the Lord: Isaiah 9: 2-7 p. 598 OT

CAROL *O Come All Ye Faithful* #41

+CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Behold! I bring good news of great joy which shall be for all the people.

All: And also with you.

One: O come, all you that are faithful and that are seeking faith!

All: We come this night to worship and adore him.

One: Come, joyful and triumphant to Bethlehem!

All: We come this night to worship and adore him.

One: O come, let us adore him!

All: We come this night to worship and adore him, for he is Christ the Lord!

HYMN OF PRAISE *WINTER ROSE*
R. Dean Barr, soloist

+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.

+CAROL *Away in a Manger* #25

+RESPONSE *Angels We Have Heard on High* #23
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

+PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

HEBREW BIBLE READING Psalm 96 p. 513 OT

ANTHEM *BY CANDLELIGHT* Schram

THE GOSPEL TEXT Titus 2: 11-14 p. 190 NT

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION "Opening Christmas Presence"
Dr. Martin Dotterweich

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *from the Belgic Confession of 1561*
We confess that God fulfilled the promise made to the early fathers and mothers by the mouths of the holy prophets when he sent the only and eternal Son of God into the world at the time appointed. The Son took the "form of a slave" and was made in "human form," truly assuming a real human nature, with all its weaknesses, except for sin; being conceived in the womb of the blessed virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit, without male participation. And Christ not only assumed human nature as far as the body is concerned but also a real human soul, in order to be a real human being. For since the soul had been lost as well as the body, Christ had to assume them both to save them both together. Therefore we confess... that Christ shared the very flesh and blood of children; being the fruit of the loins of David according to the flesh, descended from David according to the flesh; the fruit of the womb of the virgin Mary; born of woman; the seed of David; the root of Jesse; descended from Judah, having descended from the Jews according to the flesh; descended from Abraham – having assumed descent from Abraham and Sarah, and was made like his brothers and sisters, yet without sin. In this way, Christ is truly our Immanuel – that is: "God with us."

THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS

CAROL *SWEET LITTLE JESUS BOY* MacGimsey
Anne Campbell, soloist

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:1-20 p.50 NT

THE SPREADING OF THE LIGHT

The light will be dimmed and the pastor will light the candles of the ushers from the Christ candle. the ushers will move out with the light, lighting the candle of the first worshiper in each pew. The light will then spread as it is passed from the worshiper to worshiper. Remember that the lighted candle remains upright, and the unlighted candle is tipped to be lighted. Please wait until after the benediction to extinguish your candle.

CAROL (remain seated)

Silent Night

#60

+BENEDICTION

Following the benediction, please extinguish your candle and depart the sanctuary in silence.

+THOSE WHO ARE ABLE PLEASE STAND

THIS EVENING...

- The liturgist is Fred Holt
- The acolytes are: Cate Arney and Lizzie Allen
- The Sound Board tech is: Gloria Wadle
- There is a nursery available for those who desire childcare for their infants or toddlers during the service.
- There is no W.O.W. Children's Worship this evening. Families are invited to spend the evening worshipping together.
- Please keep your candles lit until following the benediction. You may place your candle in the receptacle by the door on your way out.
- Anyone that has purchased a memorial/honorary poinsettia may take it home following the service.

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to attend as we commemorate the events in the bible that led up to the birth of Christ and why we rejoice today.

Sinking Spring Presbyterian Church

Organized 1772

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)



Christmas Eve

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Responding to God's grace, we are called to be a welcoming community, following Jesus, serving joyfully, and sharing God's love with each other and the world.



SINKING SPRING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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December 24th, 2016