

<sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

*Luke 2:10–11*



## Abington Presbyterian Church

7:30 p.m. December 24, 2020

Christmas Eve Service

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## Christmas Eve Service    December 24, 2020

### GATHERING

*The people gather wherever they may in response to God's call, offering praise in words of scripture, prayer, and song. The people acknowledge their sinfulness and receive the good news of God's forgiveness.*

PRELUDE

Still, Still, Still

*arr. Daniel Burton*

GREETING

\* CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*The Twitchell Family*

"While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn."

**We celebrate this night not only what happened long ago, but that we can receive and welcome the coming of our Lord ourselves!**

His coming is the source of our hope. We recognize him as the Prince of Peace.

**Our joy is a result of Christ's reign. We relish the incarnational embrace of God's love!**

We have been waiting for the light of the world.

**As the Christ candle is lit this night, we open ourselves that God's light might shine within us and through us.**

\*HYMN 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

PRAYER OF ADORATION

**Glory to you, Almighty God, for you sent your only-begotten Son, that we might have new life. Glory to you, Jesus Christ, for you became flesh and dwelt among us that we might become your people. Glory to you, Holy Spirit, for you direct and rule and empower our lives. All glory to you in the highest, and on earth, peace among those with whom you dwell. Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

*Hymn 121 v. 4*

**O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;**

**cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.**

**We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;**

**O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The One whose birth we celebrate this night was an embodiment of God's grace. In him, we experience the very salvation of God!

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

\* GLORIA HYMN 119                      Hark! The Herald Angels Sing                      MENDELSSOHN

\* THE PEACE OF CHRIST  
The peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING                      Isaiah 9:2-7  
The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY                      Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming                      *arr. Daniel Burton*

SCRIPTURE READING                      Luke 2:1-20  
The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON                      Why Fear Can Be Put Aside                      *The Rev. Kirby Lawrence Hill*

ANTHEM                      The First Nowell                      *arr. Mack Wilberg*

CHRISTMAS PRAYER 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.**

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

\*CAROL 122                      Silent Night, Holy Night!                      STILLE NACHT

\*CAROL 134                      Joy to the World                      ANTIOCH

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE                      Paean on DIVINUM MYSTERIUM                      *John Cook*  
(based on Hymn #108 Of The Father's Love Begotten)

**Worship Leaders:**

**Preacher:** The Rev. Kirby Lawrence Hill

**Liturgist:** The Rev. Aaron Twitchell and The Rev. Dr. Jade King Bass

**Choir:** Sall Family

**Violin:** Bill Phillips

**Organ:** Erik Meyer

**Bulletin Cover design:** Eric Gildner

**Permissions:** “Still, Still, Still” arr. Daniel Burton. Copyright © 2018 Birnamwood Publications, A division of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc., St. Louis, MO. Reprinted and streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-729335. All rights reserved.

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” words and music (ADESTE FIDELES) by John Francis Wade, c. 1743. Trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, alt.; harm. The English Hymnal, 1906. Public Domain.

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” words by Phillips Brooks, 1868. Music (ST. LOUIS) by Lewis Henry Redner, 1868. Public Domain.

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” words by Charles Wesley, 1739, alt. Music (MENDELSSOHN) by Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. William Hayman Cummings, 1855. Public Domain.

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” arr. Daniel Burton. Copyright © 2018 Birnamwood Publications, A division of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc., St. Louis, MO. Reprinted and streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-729335. All rights reserved.

“The First Nowell” arr. Mack Wilberg. ©2001 Oxford University Press, Inc. Licensed permission to stream requested.

“ Silent Night, Holy Night!” words by Joseph Mohr, 1816; stanzas 1–3, English trans. John Freeman Young, 1863; stanza 4, English trans. Jane Montgomery Campbell, 1863, alt. Music (STILLE NACHT) by Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818. Public Domain.

“Joy to the World” words by Isaac Watts, 1719, alt. Music (ANTIOCH) attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742; arr. Lowell Mason, 1836. Public Domain.

“Paean on DIVINUM MYSTERIUM” by John Cook. ©1956 Novello. Licensed permission to stream requested.