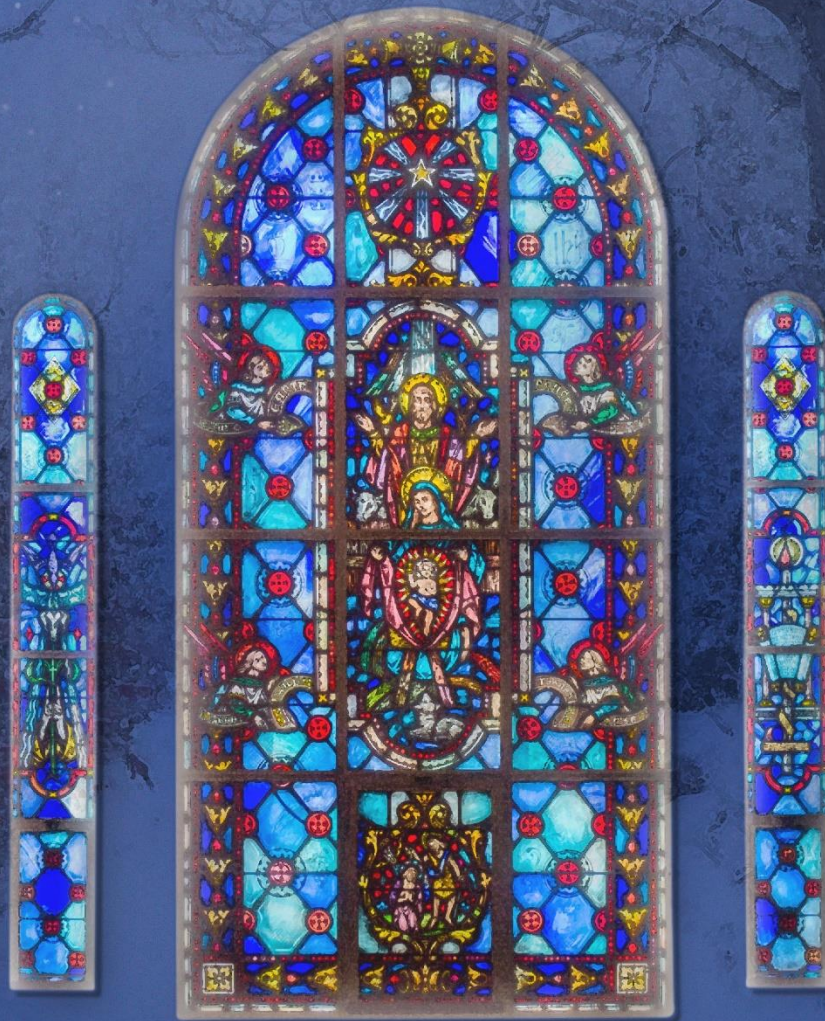


¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Luke 2:16–20



Abington Presbyterian Church

7:30 p.m. December 24, 2021

Christmas Eve Service

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 2021
7:30 pm

PRELUDE	Go, Tell It! from A Spiritual Pair	<i>Dan Locklair</i>
	Wachet auf (Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying)	<i>Johann Sebastian Bach</i>
	From <i>The Nutcracker</i>	<i>Pyotr Illyich Tchaikovsky, transcribed by Frederick Hohman</i>
	Overture Miniature	
	Marche Characteristique	
	Dance of the Sugar-Plum Fairy	
	Dance of the Reed-Flutes	
	Arabian Dance	
	Russian Dance	
	Fantasy on Tempus Adest Floridum (Good King Wenceslas)	<i>Karen Keene</i>

GREETING

INTROIT	Once in Royal David's City	<i>Hymn 140, v. 1,2</i>
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*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

We celebrate on this night the revealing of the glory of God's saving work.
We who have walked in gloom have seen a great light coming into all the shadowy places of life.
Our God is not just an idea; our God is not distant or uncaring.
We rejoice, for a child is born, an heir is given, to bring peace, righteousness, and justice.
God comes to be with us, transforming us and this world with love.
Glory to God in the highest! We see in a manger good news of great joy!

*** LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

* CAROL 140	Once in Royal David's City	<i>verse 4</i>
And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love; For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above; and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.		

*** PRAYER**

* CAROL 133	O Come All Ye Faithful	ADESTE FIDELES
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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Everlasting God, we glimpse your glory and majesty through the story which defines this night,
yet it is easier for us to receive a sentimental tale than to experience a Savior's coming.
Our Lord Jesus embodied your love, but in our lives, we harbor apathy or antipathy toward others.
We have walked away from your revealed truth to seek what was more convenient or pleasurable.
Shine your light of grace upon us that fresh faith and hope would be reborn within us.
In the name of the One born in Bethlehem, we pray.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The One whose birth we celebrate this night is the fullest expression of God's grace.
In Christ, we experience the very salvation of God!
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Alleluia!

* GLORIA

Angels We Have Heard on High

Hymn 113, v.1 and 3

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Glo – ria in excelsis Deo! Glo – ria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Glo – ria in excelsis Deo! Glo – ria in excelsis Deo!

* THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

ANTHEM

Good Christians All, Rejoice!

arr. Gilbert Martin

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

HANDBELL ANTHEM

Silent Night

Lloyd Larson

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-20

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

* CAROL 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

SERMON

The Small and Large Story

The Rev. Kirby Lawrence Hill

* CAROL 123

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
verses 1, 2, 5

CAROL

CHRISTMAS PRAYER AND 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

Offering plates are located at the exits to receive your gift this night or you can give through the giving page of our church website at <https://apcusa.org/give/>

OFFERTORY

Still, Still, Still

arr. Robert Wetzel

* DOXOLOGY

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Hymn 143, v. 4

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!

* SPREADING OF THE LIGHT

At this point in the service, candlelight will be spread throughout the sanctuary by worship assistants lighting candles at the end of pews. You are invited to pass your light to whoever is sitting next to you. To extinguish your candle safely during this pandemic, we ask that you not blow it out, but that you place it in one of the water containers when you are leaving the sanctuary after the postlude.

* CAROL 122

Silent Night

STILLE NACHT

1. 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.

2. 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."

3. 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.

4. 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.

* CAROL 134

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!

Let all their songs employ,
while fields & floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

Finale from Symphony II

Louis Vierne

Worship Leaders:

Preacher: The Rev. Kirby Lawrence Hill

Liturgists: The Rev. Aaron Twitchell and The Rev. Dr. Jade King Bass

Candle Lighters: Suzin Weber and Nikki Rigsby

Celebration Ringers: Nathan Lazurus, director

Christmas Choir: John Sall, Director

Organ: Erik Meyer