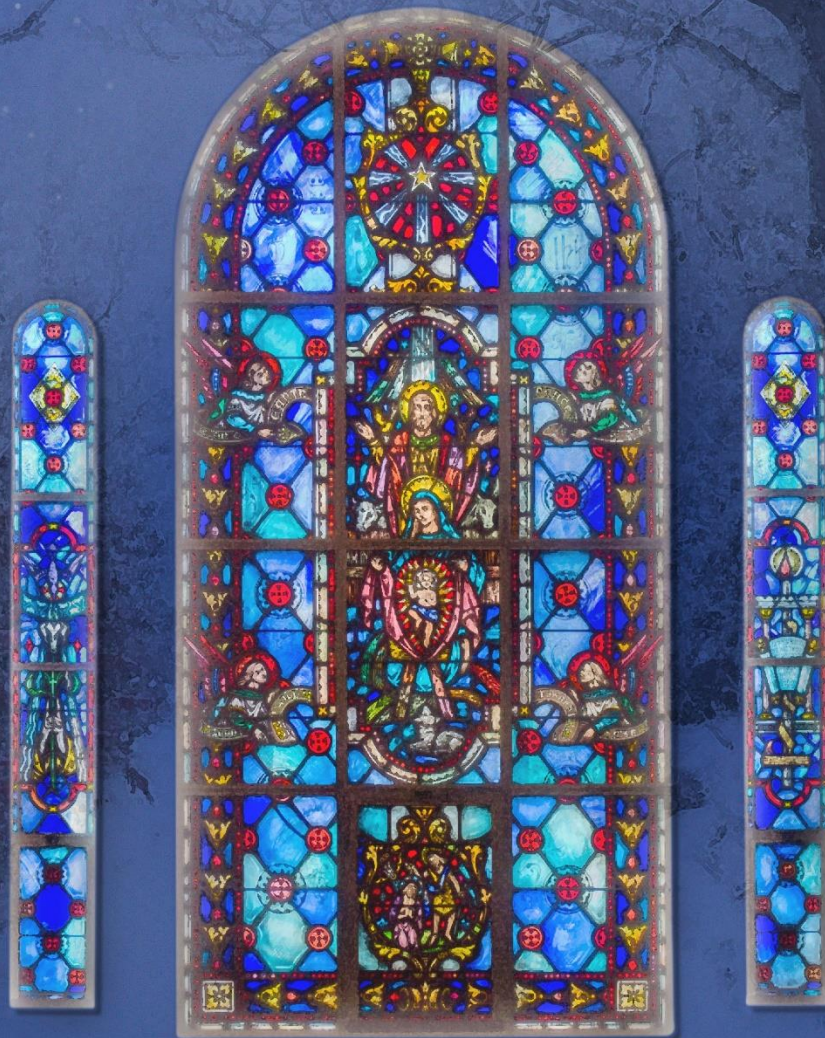


<sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured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

10:00 p.m. December 24, 2021

Christmas Eve Communion Service

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**Christmas Eve Communion Service**  
**December 24, 2021**  
**10:00 pm**

PRELUDE                      Go, Tell It! from A Spiritual Pair                      *Dan Locklair*

                                    Wachet auf (Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying)                      *Johann Sebastian Bach*

                                    From *The Nutcracker*                      *Pyotr Illyich Tchaikovsky, transcribed by Frederick Hohman*  
                                    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)                      *Karen Keene*

GREETING

INTROIT                      Once in Royal David's City                      *Hymn 140, v. 1,2*

\* 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                      *verse 4*  
    **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*



## 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.

## 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

## 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!**

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is truly right and our greatest joy... we join our voices with the heavenly choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

HOLY, HOLY (sung)

IN DULCI JUBILO

**Sing Holy, Holy, Holy  
Lord God of pow'r and might,  
Heav'n and earth your glory show  
Hosanna in the highest  
Bless-ed is the one who comes  
In the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the heights! Hosanna in the heights!**

You are holy, O God of majesty...that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

**Christ has died,**

**Christ is risen,**

**Christ will come again.**

Gracious God pour out your Holy Spirit...even as we pray as our Lord Jesus has taught us:

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**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

RECEIVING OF THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

## \* 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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

**Liturgist:** Alice Price

**Candle Lighters:** The Brooks family

**Christmas Choir:** John Sall, Director

**Organ:** Erik Meyer