

ST. PAUL'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Christmas Eve 2017

December 24, 2017

6:00 PM

* Stand if you are able
Musical Prelude:

Bold: Said by all

GATHERING

* Entry of the Word

Welcome:

Declaration of Good News: Isaiah 9:6-7

Processional Carol: *"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

(#159)

Call to Worship (responsive)

(projected)

Like the shepherds, we come to the stable,
uncertain of what we have heard and see
longing to hear a word of peace and joy.

Like the wise ones, we have journeys to
gifts to offer, and hope in our hearts,
that this world can change for the better

Here, in the stillness of a winter's night,
we gather to share the light of Christ,
a light that shines in the nightfall.
**We gather in the wonder of this night
to share our joy and thanks for new life.**



Lighting the Advent Wreath

Keith Main

One: Advent, the season of preparing, is nearly over.

Our waiting is nearly finished.

Now is a time of fulfillment and celebration.

***All:* In the darkness of night, we give thanks for light.**

One: We light a candle of hope:

hope for ourselves, and for God's beloved world.

We light a candle of peace:

peace in our hearts, and on earth.



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MINISTER: Rev. Mikal Schomburg

ORGANIST: Mr. Ian Madge

One: We light a candle of joy:

joy to the world, and within our whole being.

We light a candle of love:

the promise of God's love for us, and for all creation.

And now the hour has come and the season is fulfilled.

**All: We light the Christ candle,
the light of the world, the light of possibility. Amen.**

Sign of Peace: Peace be with you.
 And also with you.

First Lesson: God created human beings to be uniquely related to him and to rule over the rest of creation as his image and his likeness.

Genesis 1:26-28

Bruce Murray

*** Carol:** *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

#122 (vv. 1, 2, 5, 7)

Second Lesson: Human beings failed to live in trust and obedience to God, with disastrous consequences for ourselves, our relationships with one another, and our care for God's creation.

Genesis 3:1-15

Grace McConnell

*** Carol:** *"This is My Father's World"*

#328

Third Lesson: An angelic messenger tells the virgin Mary that she will bear the promised Son of David, and that the child conceived in her by the power of the Holy Spirit will be the Son of God.

Luke 1:26-35, 38

Donna Capper

*** Carol:** *"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"*

#139

Fourth Lesson: Jesus is born in Bethlehem, the town of David, and his identity as Messiah and Lord is first proclaimed to shepherds by a host of angels.

Luke 2:1-14

Keith Main

*** Carol:** *"Angels, From the Realm of Glory"*

#146 (vv. 1, 2, 4, 5)

2

Fifth Lesson: The shepherds find the newborn king lying in a manger, as the angels predicted, and glorify God for what they have heard and seen.

Luke 2:15-20

Bruce Murray

*** Carol:** *"While Shepherds Watched"*

#138 (vv. 1, 2, 3, 6)

Choir Anthem: *"Run, Run, Shepherds"*

(Anna Laura Page)

Sixth Lesson: St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

John 1:1-14

Grace McConnell

*** Carol:** *"Joy to the World"*

#153



Seventh Lesson: For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

John 3.16

Rev. Schomburg

REFLECTION

Choir Anthem: *"Whisper! Whisper!"* (Jay Althouse)

Responding in Love

Collection of Offerings

Offertory Anthem: *"Mary, Did You Know?"* (Lowry/Greene)

Doxology: #79

Prayers of the People:

The Lord's Prayer

SHARING THE CHRIST LIGHT: LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Carol: *"Silent Night, Holy Night"* (remain seated) #154

Please be careful. As you receive your light, the lighted candle is always held upright with the other candle being tipped to receive the flame. At the close of the service, please return your candle to the boxes near the doors.

Blessing and Benediction:

Recessional Anthem: *"Hallelujah Chorus"* (G.F. Handel)

*** Exit of the Word**

Musical Postlude