

## THE ORDER OF EVENING WORSHIP

December 24, 2017

*Christmas Eve—Service of Lights*

7:00 p.m.

### WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S LIGHT

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Fugue on "*Joy to the World*"  
Edgar Gonsales and Lucas Metler, piano

Kyle Shaw

INTROIT

*On Christmas Night All Christians Sing (The Sussex Carol)*

Chancel Choir

arr. Higginson

### LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

(Adapted from John 1:5-13)

Leader: The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it;

**People: The true Light, which enlightens everyone, is coming into the world.**

Leader: He is in the world, and the world came into being through Him;

**People: Yet, the world does not know Him.**

Leader: He comes to His own;

**People: Yet, His own people do not accept Him.**

Leader: But, all who receive Him, He gives power to become children of God.

**People: Children, born not of blood, or of the flesh, or of humanity; but born of God.**

\*CAROL #41

*O Come All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

THE CREED OF CHRISTMASTIDE

**We believe in Jesus Christ, and in the beauty of the Gospel which began in Bethlehem. We believe in Him Whose cradle was a manger. We believe in Him Who, finding no room in the inn, finds a home in our lives. We believe in Him Whose Spirit, having glorified a little town, now glorifies the world. We believe in Him Who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible. We believe in Him Who, by His love, lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God. We believe that, by Christ's love alone, humanity and God, death and life, earth and heaven might be reconciled. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, so that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Amen.**

ANTHEM

*What Child Is This?* arr. Martin  
Emily Schrader, Katie Cornett, Isaac Brooks, soloists

Chancel Choir

OFFERTORY

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*  
Joretta Hill and Denneice Cliston

*Spiritual*

*The First Noel* arr. by James and Stan Pethel  
Lucas, Metler, piano and Edgar Gonsales, organ

DOXOLOGY #592

**THE LIGHT OF HOPE**

THE MARKAN LECTION

Mark 13:32-37

CAROL PRELUDE

13<sup>th</sup> Century Plainsong  
Beth Underwood, soloist

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

CAROL #20

*Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*  
*verses 1 and 2*

ABERYSTWYTH

THE CANDLE OF HOPE

**THE LIGHT OF PEACE**

THE JOHANNINE LECTION

John 1:1, 14-18

ANTHEM

*Away in a Manger*  
Bekah Knight and Thomas Eastham, soloists

Chancel Choir  
C. Brock

THE CANDLE OF PEACE

**THE LIGHT OF JOY**

THE LUKAN LECTION

Luke 1:30-35

DUET

*Angels We Have Heard on High*  
Joyce Hall Wolf and Landon Westerfield, sopranos

arr. Walters

THE CANDLE OF JOY

**THE LIGHT OF LOVE**

THE MATTHEAN LECTION

Matthew 1:18-21

CAROL #44

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

ST. LOUIS

THE CANDLE OF LOVE

## WE RECEIVE GOD'S LIGHT

HOMILY

ANTHEM

*Angels' Carol*  
Chancel Choir

J. Rutter

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S LIGHT

\*THE SHARING OF OUR SAVIOR'S LIGHT (While Candles are Being Lit)

CAROL (Insert) *Silent Night* STILLE NACHT

\*CAROL (Insert) *Joy to the World* ANTIOCH

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *O Holy Night* arr. by Lani Smith

Edgar Gonsales, organ and Lucas Metler, piano

---

\*Congregation Stands

**This evening marks the start of a new season in the Christian calendar. The Church customarily celebrates the nativity of our Lord and Savior on the evening before Christmas Day. This evening is traditionally recognized as Christmas Eve. The liturgical color for this occasion is white. White represents the holiest of days in the life of the Church because it signifies the glory of our Lord and King, Jesus Christ. It is indeed proper and fitting for us to mark this evening with the holy color of white. Thanks be to God for the nativity of His Son and for the redemption of our souls.**

---

*Thank you to all who helped plan and serve the Marshall/Moretz Dinner this evening.  
We're grateful for your caring service to your church and community.*

*Thank you Chancel Choir and soloists, Joyce Hall Wolf, Edgar Gonsales, Lucas Metler,  
Denneice Cliston, and Joretta Hill for helping with our music tonight.*

*A special thanks to everyone who "adopted" names from our Giving Tree.  
Thanks for making the season merry and bright for someone else this year!*

*This evening's offering will be received to support First Presbyterian Church's  
ongoing ministry to the needy of Madison County. This "Love Fund" is used to help  
families and individuals with financial support. Please give generously.*