

**THE ORDER OF EVENING WORSHIP**

**December 24, 2021**

*Christmas Eve—Service of Lights*

**7:00 p.m.**

**WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S LIGHT**

WELCOME

PRELUDE

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*  
Organist

arr. Larson

INTROIT

*The Star Carol*  
Cameron Carpenter, tenor

Alfred Burt

**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.**

ANTHEM

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*  
Chancel Choir

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.**

OFFERTORY

*Stille Nacht*  
Organist

arr. Gower

## THE LIGHT OF HOPE

THE MARKAN LECTION

Mark 13:32-37

ANTHEM

*English Advent Carol*  
Cameron Carpenter, tenor and Isaac Brooks, baritone

arr. Liebergen

THE CANDLE OF HOPE

## THE LIGHT OF PEACE

THE JOHANNINE LECTION

John 1:1, 14-18

ANTHEM

*What Child Is This?*  
Madelynne Banderman, Isaac Brooks, Cameron Carpenter, Amie Roberts

arr. Sosin

THE CANDLE OF PEACE

## THE LIGHT OF JOY

THE LUKAN LECTION

Luke 1:30-35

ANTHEM

*Ding Dong! Merrily On High/He Is Born!*  
Chancel Choir

arr. Anna Laura Page

THE CANDLE OF JOY

## THE LIGHT OF LOVE

THE MATTHEAN LECTION

Matthew 1:18-21

ANTHEM

Still, Still, Still  
Amie Roberts, soprano and Chancel Choir

STILL STILL STILL

THE CANDLE OF LOVE

## WE RECEIVE GOD'S LIGHT

HOMILY

ANTHEM

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*  
Chancel Choir

MENDELSSOHN

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S LIGHT

RECESS OUTDOORS

CAROL

*Silent Night*

STILLE NACHT

CAROL

*Joy to the World*

ANTIOCH

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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\*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.**

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*Thank you to all who helped with our annual Marshall-Moretz Event!  
We're grateful for your caring service to your church and community.*

*Thank you Chancel Choir and soloists, Joyce Hall Wolf,  
Cameron Carpenter, Isaac Brooks, Madelynne Banderman,  
Beth Underwood, and Amie Roberts 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.*