First Presbyterian Church Haddonfield

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2023, 10:00 p.m.

We Gather to Celebrate

Prelude Noël bisontin" – Jean Bouvard Pos Lucas Brown, organ

Call to Worship and Ritual of the Advent Wreath

One: We have waited long enough!

All: For some, it has been a time of restless anticipation,

One: for others, a time of frenzied preparations.

All: For still others, a time of wearisome travel,

One: for some, a time of nostalgia, perhaps even melancholy.

All: But our time of waiting ends this night.

One: On the first Sunday of this blessed season,

All: We lit the Candle of Peace, reminding us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace, demonstrating how we can realize God's kingdom in this world.

One: On the second Sunday of this blessed season,

All: We lit the candle of Hope, celebrating the hope of Israel, and the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

One: On the third Sunday of this blessed season,

All: We lit the candle of Joy, giving thanks for the gift of Jesus who sets all people free.

One: On the fourth Sunday of this blessed season,

All: We lit the Candle of Love, declaring that Jesus was born into our world to show us how to love one another.

One: On this blessed eve of Christmas, we light the Christ Candle as a sign of the light of Christ which enters our world once again, fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy that

All: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined."

One: Allow that light to touch you, to heal your wounds, to renew your flagging spirit, to provide guidance for your journey.

All: Let us worship God on this holiest of nights.

* Carol #41 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

* Opening Prayer

All: Living God, on this holy night we gather: to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory; to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work; to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise; to sit with Mary, cradling your love. May the good

news of this night inspire us to tell the world of our great joy: for to us is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord. Glory and praise to you forever! Amen.

Anthem "Do You Hear What I Hear? – arr. Peter Leibensperger Tanya McKenzie, flute; Corinne Brandt, harp

We Gather to Listen

First Reading Isaiah 9:2-7

Anthem "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" – arr. Cynthia Dobrinski Moore Bells

Barry Wihjelm, clarinet

Second Reading Luke 2:1-7

* Carol #23 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Third Reading Luke 2:8-14

Anthem "Love Came Down at Christmas" – arr. John Rutter Chancel Choir

Fourth Reading Luke 2:15-20

* Carol #44 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Christmas Eve Offering

Offertory "Gigue" from *Partita No. 2 in D minor* – J. S. Bach

Gabriela Mandescu, violin

Prayer of Dedication

All: God of wonder, we offer you these humble gifts, signs of your goodness and mercy. Receive them with our gratitude, that through us all people may know the riches of your love in the Word made flesh. Amen.

Fifth Reading John 1:1-5

Anthem "O Holy Night" – Adolphe Adam

Kelly Leibensperger, soprano; Loren Greer, bass

We Gather to Proclaim

Christmas Eve Meditation

Sharing the Light of Christ

THE SERVICE OF LIGHTS

Our lights have been dimmed to symbolize the darkness of the world into which Christ is born. The burning candles represent the divine source of the light in that darkness. The pastors will light the candles of the ushers who will light the candle of the first person in each pew, and that person in turn will light the candle of his or her neighbor until all are lighted. To light your candle, tilt it over the already lit candle. Don't tip the lighted candle or the hot wax will drip onto you.

Carol

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

Verse One: Congregation Sings
Silent Night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round you virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Verse Two: Chancel Choir only sings
Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Verse Three: Congregation Sings
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.

Verse Four: Congregation Sings Melody Only 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!

* Benediction

* Carol #40

"Joy to the World!"

Postlude

"In dulci jubilo" (BWV 729) – J.S. Bach Lucas Brown, organ

* All who are able, please stand.

Welcome!

The Christmas Joy Offering will be collected tonight and throughout the Christmas season. Use the envelopes in the pews or go to www.haddonfieldpres.org to give online.

Senior Pastor, Marvin Lindsay Associate Pastor, Nikki Perrine Passante Minister of Music, Peter Leibensperger Principal Organist, Lucas Brown Advent Wreath Lighters, The McGlade Family

www.haddonfieldpres.org ◆ 20 Kings Highway East ◆ (856) 429-1960

