

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service
December 24, 2020
John Willingham preaching, Pauline Sexton assisting

Prelude "O Holy Night" arr. John Carter
Mina Choi, piano

Words of Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Hymn 133 "O Come All Ye Faithful" ADESTE FIDELES
Virtual Choir and Orchestra

Prayer of Confession

**God of mystery and love,
the heavenly host fills the skies;
the shepherds rush to behold the babe.
But we stand still, for these glad tidings
have lost all sense of urgency.
The angel chorus rejoices with alleluias,
but we hear words as nothing new.
This story is so familiar
we forget its power to transform the world.
You have given us your Son.
Now give us the gift of faith,
that we might receive the Christ child
into our hearts, our lives, our homes, our world,
and live as those who walk in his light.**
(Moment of Silent Reflection and Confession)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the promise of the Lord: See, your salvation has come! You are the holy people,
redeemed by God, sought out, not forsaken. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

Anthem "Good Christian Friends Rejoice!" arr. Tammy Waldrop
Joyful Bells

Time with the Children

Scripture Lesson: Luke 2:8-20

Sermon "After the Mystery"
"But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart." —Luke 2:19

Affirmation of Faith

**Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus.
His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God.
He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel,
the beginning of the new creation,
and the pioneer of the new humanity.
He gave history its meaning and direction
and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world.**

Offertory "Fantasia on Greensleeves" Williams/arr. Monday
String Ensemble

Prayer of Dedication

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

A child is born for us in Bethlehem, wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.
And he will be our Shepherd, feeding his flock in the strength of the Lord.

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer (Traditional)

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.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion

Candle Lighting

(You are invited to share the light of Christ through lighting your own candle as we sing.)

Hymn 122 "Silent Night, Holy Night!" STILLE NACHT
(Audio taken from Christmas Eve 2019)

Closing Litany

In the beginning, God said, "Let there be light" and there was light.

God is light and in God there is no darkness at all.

If I say "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me become night,"

Even darkness is not dark to God; the night is as bright as the day.

For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness,"

Who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."

And God saw that the light was good.

Benediction

Postlude "Postlude on Adeste Fideles" Eric H. Thiman
Mina Choi, organ

Lighting the Advent Wreath are Carole Ermold and Deirdre Shaffer. Carole is serving as a Deacon and is active in the Seekers of the Word Women's Bible Study. She has previously served on the Senior Adult Ministry Committee and as a Stephen minister. Carole has been a member for 13 years. Deirdre is serving as a Deacon. She has led several Growth Groups. Deirdre has been a member for 8 years.

Christmas Eve Offering. We are encouraging our members and friends to consider making a donation to support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in its COVID-19 relief efforts. We encourage you to give generously as we help neighbors in need. For more information or to make an additional donation, visit <https://pda.pcusa.org/situation/covid-19/> or give through our [website](#) and select "Presbyterian Disaster Ass't – COVID Support."

Liturgy notes. Tonight's Prayer of Confession is taken from *Call to Worship: Liturgy, Music, Preaching and the Arts*, volume 53.1, p. 19. The Affirmation of Faith is adapted from our denomination's "Confession of 1967" which, at the time, was the first new creedal statement adopted by the Presbyterian Church in more than three centuries. It proclaims the life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ to be the pattern for the church's mission, calling on all Christians to be reconciled to God and to one another.

Join us online for **A Virtual Service of Lessons and Carols** featuring all of our wonderful musical ensembles including a stunning piece featuring our virtual choir and orchestra; available to view **December 27 at 9:30 am** and any time later. Visit www.dtownpc.org to join in the celebration!