

Doylestown Presbyterian Church
Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion



December 24, 2021
7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve

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Gathering as God's Family

Words of Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Throughout these past weeks we have seen an accumulation of light as an expression of the growing anticipation of the birth of Jesus Christ, who is the light of the world. I invite you to join in our responsive call to worship.

We light the first candle of Advent, the candle of the hope, because
Jesus is our hope.

We light the second candle of Advent, the candle of joy, because
we know that Jesus is the source of true and everlasting joy.

We light the third candle of Advent, the candle of peace, because
Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

We light the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of love, because
Jesus is love and those abide in love abide in him, and he abides in them.

Now we light the Christ Candle. We believe in the one, whom the Prophet Isaiah calls the Prince of Peace, for a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Let us join together in prayer.

Receive our thanks tonight for the beauty and majesty of Christmas, for your presence with us, and for your love that makes all things new. May your light shine as a sign of your promise and glory now and forever. Amen.

Prelude

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Chancel Choir

arr. Julian Wachner

*Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!
Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!*

*Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with man to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!*

*Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Risen with healing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness! Hail, the heaven born Prince of Peace!
Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!*

Prayer of Confession

Creator God,

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 the words as nothing new.

This story is so familiar we forget its power to transform the world.

We forget it heralds a reign of justice.

We forget that this story requires something of us.

You have given us your Son.

Now give us the gift of faith,

into our hearts, our lives, our homes, our world,

that we might live as those who walk in his light.

Bless us with the gifts Emmanuel brings,

that hope, joy, peace, and love might flow through us

and bless your people everywhere.

Embolden us to tell your story and send us out, glorifying and praising God—

for to us is born a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord!

(Moment of Silent Reflection and Confession)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the Good News of the Gospel!

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Proclaiming God's Word

Old Testament Lesson: Psalm 96:10-13

NRSV

Say among the nations, "The Lord is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity." Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

Anthem

What Is This Lovely Fragrance?

Healey Willan

Chancel Choir

*What is this lovely fragrance wafting like to the scents of flowers in spring!
Shepherds, O tell us, whence such beauty, hear you not heavenly caroling?
What is this lovely fragrance wafting like to the scents of flowers in spring?*

*What is this light so fair, so tender breaking upon our wondering eyes?
Never the Morning Star so radiant followed his course o'er eastern skies.
What is this light so fair, so tender, breaking upon our wondering eyes?*

*Shepherds, O haste with eager footsteps seek the Saviour, born today.
Low at His feet we lay our treasures, heart's adoration, love for aye.
Shepherds, O haste with eager footsteps seek the Saviour, born today.*

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

Sermon

“The Best Christmas Tradition”

Dr. John M. Willingham

“I am bringing good news of great joy for all the people”—Luke 2:10b

Responding to God's Word

Affirmation of Faith:

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Offering of Our Gifts and Lives

(Persons nearest the center aisle are asked to sign and pass the Act of Friendship pad toward the outside aisle. Please keep the cover open as the pad is returned.)

Offertory

Away In A Manger

arr. Bob Chilcott

Chancel Choir

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.*

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!**

Prayer of Dedication

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.** It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O holy God, creator and ruler of the universe...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the celestial choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name: **Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing...**we bless you, God of glory, now and forever, offering the prayer the one born of Mary taught his first disciples...

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.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

(We will share in communion by intinction. You will be invited to come down the center aisle, receive bread from a pastor, move to the left or right and receive a cup from a Communion Server, eat the bread and drink the juice, place the cup in the basket held by another server and then return by the side aisle. If you unable to come forward, we will bring the elements to you.)

Prayer of Commitment

Going Forth in God's Name

Candle Lighting

(You are invited to share the light of Christ through the Christmas candles. For your safety, please tilt your unlighted candle toward the upright lighted candle and remain seated as we sing the closing hymn.)

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|---|---|
| <p>1. Silent night, holy night!
 All is calm, all is bright,
 ‘round yon virgin mother and child!
 Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
 sleep in heavenly peace,
 sleep in heavenly peace.</p> <p>2. Silent night, holy night!
 Shepherds quake at the sight,
 glories stream from heaven afar,
 heavenly hosts sing “Alleluia:
 Christ the Savior is born;
 Christ the Savior is born!”</p> | <p>3. 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</p> <p>4. 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.</p> |
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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.

If we walk in the light we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus.

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.”

And God saw that the light was good.

Benediction

(Please extinguish all candles following the benediction.)

Postlude

Adeste Fideles

Eric H. Thiman

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FROM DOYLESTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome to Worship!

Whether in-person or joining us from home, we are glad that you are with us!

Lighting the Advent Wreath: Mark and Joanne Chaikin. Mark is a Deacon and sings with the Chancel Choir. Joanne has served as a member of the Finance Committee.

Assisting: Becca Bateman

The Lord's Supper. As Presbyterians, we practice "open communion" in which all Christians are invited to share in the sacrament with us. Our Book of Order puts it this way: "The opportunity to eat and drink with Christ is not a right bestowed upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. All who come to the table are offered the bread and cup, regardless of their age or understanding."

Liturgy notes: Tonight's prayer of confession is taken from *Call to Worship: Liturgy, Music, Preaching and the Arts*. Volume 53.1, p. 26.

Tonight's offering will support the Coalition to Shelter and Support the Homeless, which provides shelter and aid to our homeless neighbors in Central Bucks. The Code Blue shelter will be hosted at DPC for the month of February.

Communion Servers: Craig Eaton, Dot Fabian, Marie Stevens, Marv Woodall.

On the cover of the bulletin is *The Song of the Angels*, original painting by Thomas Moran (1837-1926); engraved by Samuel Sartain (1830-1906), Library of Congress, public domain.

Upcoming worship services. We will have one service on December 26 and January 2 at 9:30 am. On January 9 we begin two services with worship at 8:30 and 10:30 am, with Sunday School for all ages in between. The later service will include Children's Worship Time, the Chancel Choir, and be Livestreamed with a recorded version able to be viewed anytime. Be sure to visit our website for more details.



SCAN ME

Let's Connect! Do you have a prayer request or want to share a joy or concern? We want to hear from you! Visit www.dtownnpc.org and click "Connect" at the top of the page to contact us or scan this QR code with your smart phone camera.

Year-End Giving Information

Contributions must be received in the church office by 3 pm on Friday, December 31 or postmarked with a 2021 date in order to meet the IRS requirements for a 2021 charitable contribution. Checks that are dated, mailed, and *postmarked* in 2021 will be deductible (if eligible) in 2021, even if they are not delivered by the post office to DPC until 2022. Contributions received or postmarked after that date will not appear on your Charitable Contributions Report for 2021. For questions, contact Linay Richards at linayr@dtownnpc.org.

SESSION

Moderator - John Willingham **Clerk** - Doug Barnett

Class of 2022

Riley Blore
Ronnalee Colantonio
Naomi Darville
Lauren Hunter
Laura Low
Bill Mullin
Tom Petro
Allen Rogers
Mark Vandersall

Class of 2023

Geoff Fisher
Melissa Hauser
John Heisey
Sherri Hoynak
Price Jones
Jim Kmetzo
Mary Lee Reiff
Sharon Sager

Class of 2024

Doug Barnett
Tanner Benson
Glenda Childs
Judy Cody
Jenny Danzis
Greg Jensen
Janice Thomas
Katie Toner

BOARD OF DEACONS

Moderator - Deirdre Shaffer

Class of 2022

Kate Adriaansen
Jim Blore
Olivia Ferrara
Mylene Greenwood
Mason Keller
Wayne Senft
Deirdre Shaffer
Melissa Shaw
Rochelle Young

Class of 2023

Craig Clemente
Kelly Huggins
Joe Jewusiak
Kathy McQuate
Peggy Moore
Brian Shadle
Connie Waters

Class of 2024

Mark Chaikin
John Gwynne
Mike Paradiso
Dennis Parenti
Linda Schumann
Krista Spadt
Eileen Telly

CHURCH STAFF

John Willingham, *Pastor*

Becca Bateman, *Associate Pastor for Education and Family Ministries*

Pauline Sexton, *Pastoral Care Assistant*

Carrie Biermann, *Interim Director of Tweens and Teens*
Mina Choi, *Director of Youth Choir and Bells, Organist*
Sharon Cummings, *Children's Worship Time Instructor*
Marco Derro, *Maintenance Engineer*
Chris Graham-Rawlings, *Member Engagement Coordinator*
Mary Claire Jensen, *Hospitality Coordinator*
Elaine Keckeissen, *Office Manager*

Geri McMullin, *Director of Sunshine Singers*
Christian Menno, *Director of Communications*
Jason Moore, *Director of Music and the Arts*
Linay Richards, *Director of Finances and Operations*
Erin Rizk, *Mission and Community Outreach Director*
Candi Young, *Children and Youth Connections Coordinator*

MISSION PARTNER

The Reverend Jed and Mrs. Jenny Koball, Peru



Be a bridge for Christ and a beacon of His love

Doylestown Presbyterian Church, 127 East Court Street, Doylestown PA 18901

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Live Stream & Videos **Doylestown Presbyterian Church on YouTube**

Phone **215-348-3531**, Web **www.dtownpc.org**