

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2021

6:00 PM

1st Presbyterian of Rockaway

Join Zoom Worship (login beginning at 9:30 AM EDT)

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Meeting ID: 468 322 0487

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LESSONS AND CAROLS: CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

WELCOME

PRELUDE

FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN

G. F. Handel

arranged by Sandra Eithun

The Genesis Ringers

Please use this time to silently prepare your hearts and minds for

CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Christmas Eve

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.

We long for a light to guide us.

You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy.

We long for God's joy in our lives.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;

he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

He is named Emmanuel: God with us.

In this tiny child, we find our light, our joy, our comfort.

Joy to the World! The Lord is come!

Rejoice, people of God! The light has come into the world.

(Light the four candles of Advent)

O God, now we light the candle of your nativity!

(Light the Christ candle)

With the company of heaven and with sounds of great joy, you come to us. This is the time of light and resplendent joy. The prophet Isaiah proclaimed a time when those who walked in the shadows would see a great light. A light would shine and a child would be born to us. The evangelist Luke painted the nativity sky and repeated the heavenly song of the angels, "Glory, peace on earth and goodwill!" John declared that this great light is Christ, the Word made flesh. This great light lives among us. By it we behold God's glory—full of grace and truth. At Christ's nativity, we now rejoice.

God, our Life and Light, thank you for coming this night to us. Thanks for touching all heaven and earth with your splendor. In every corner of the world, shine this night with your peace. In every corner of our hearts, shine this night with your grace. Amen.

***CAROL 133 O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL**

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!**

Refrain:

**O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

**True God from true God, Light from light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
very God, begotten, not created! [Refrain]**

**Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! [Refrain]**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! [Refrain]**

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

THE FIRST LESSON GENESIS 1:26–2:4

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

²⁷ So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." ²⁹ God said, "See, I have given

you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

2 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. ² And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

⁴ These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created

***CAROL 666 O SPLENDOR OF GOD’S GLORY BRIGHT** (*verses 1, 3, 4*)

**O Splendor of God’s glory bright, from light eternal bringing light;
O Light of Light, light’s living spring, true Day, all days illumining.**

**O joyful be the passing day with thoughts as clear as morning’s ray,
With faith like noon-tide shining bright, our souls unshadowed by the night.**

**O Lord, with each returning morn, your image to our heart is born;
O may we ever clearly view our Savior and our God in you.**

The Second Lesson ISAIAH 9:2–7

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.

³ You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ 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.

⁷ His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

SOLO JESU, BAMBINO
Molly Young, Soprano
Micah Young, Piano

PIETRO YON

THE THIRD LESSON ISAIAH 11:1- 4, 6-9

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: and the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; and shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord. With righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

HYMN 113 ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Shepherds why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the new born King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

THE FOURTH LESSON LUKE 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

SPECIAL MUSIC**GUARD THE NIGHT****MICAH YOUNG****Adam Young, Guitar, Micah Young, Piano**

**Noelle Restaino, Laurie Morse, Bonnie Pomeroy, Molly Young, Adam Young,
David Young, Nancy Young**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**(Rev. Bruce Prewer)**

We believe in God whose light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never smother it.

We believe that on a night like this night in Bethlehem
there was born a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.

We believe in the Word who has become incarnate, our very flesh and blood,
yet full of grace and truth.

We believe in the blessed appearing of the salvation of our God,
that is for the happiness of all people.

We believe in his name as Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of peace;
Of the increase of his rule and of his unique peace,
there will be no end.
The zeal of the God of hosts will do this.

This we surely believe!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**LORD'S PRAYER**

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 THE CHRIST LIGHT

Please remain seated as we light candles and sing.

CAROL 122

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT
Adam Young, Guitar

JOSEPH MOHR

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.

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!"

**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.**

**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.**

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

From this house to yours,
may you share in the gifts of this season.
May love, the promise of generations, attend you.
Joy, the gift of life together, fill you.
Peace, the desire of neighbor and nations, find you.
Hope, the horizon of faith, sustain you.
And may a very Merry Christmas be yours.

POSTLUDE

CHRISTMAS JOY

Michael Helman

The Church Street Ringers

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Mail your donation to:

**1st Presbyterian of Rockaway
35 Church St.
Rockaway, NJ 07866**

Offering plates are available in the narthex and at the exit door

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THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.

God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families.