



Central Presbyterian Church
Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols
December 24, 2015
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ALL OF GOD'S PEOPLE ARE WELCOMED INTO THIS PLACE OF WORSHIP
IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

GREET THOSE AROUND YOU IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

PRELUDE *O Holy Night* Brickman

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE The David Perdue Family

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 96

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song;

People: **Sing to the Lord, all the earth!**

Leader: Sing to the Lord and bless God's name;

People: **Tell the good news of salvation from day to day.**

Leader: Declare God's glory among the nations, God's marvelous works among all the peoples.

People: **For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.**

Leader: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice.

People: **Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world, and those who live in it.**

Leader: Let the whole creation sing for joy at the presence of God, who is coming.

People: **God is coming indeed, to judge the earth with righteousness, and the peoples with equity and truth.**

All: **Praise the Lord!**

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

p. 133

FILLING THE BAPTISMAL FONT

FIRST LESSON	Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19	Zac Cosner
Adam and Eve disobey God's command and disrupt the order and goodness of creation		
CAROL	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	p.121
SECOND LESSON	Genesis 22:15-18	Jemmie Moseley
God promises that, through Abraham, all the peoples of the world will be blessed		
CAROL	<i>O Come, O Come Emmanuel</i>	p. 88
THIRD LESSON	Isaiah 9:2, 6-7	Maggie Shell-Howsen
The people who walk in darkness receive the promise of the Messiah		
CAROL	<i>It Came Upon the Midnight Clear</i>	p. 123
FOURTH LESSON	Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9	Lawrence Fikes
The Messiah will come from the root of Jesse to restore the peace of creation		
CAROL	<i>Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming</i>	p. 129
FIFTH LESSON	Luke 1:26-35, 38	Amber Poss
An angel appears to Mary and announces that she will bear a holy child		
CAROL	<i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>	p. 119
SIXTH LESSON	Luke 2:1-7	Rene Mitchell
Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem, where Mary gives birth to her child		
CAROL	<i>Away in a Manger</i>	p. 115
	(Verse 2, Choir Only)	
SEVENTH LESSON	Luke 2:8-16	Karen Perdue
Angels appear to shepherds in the fields and announce the birth of the Messiah		
CAROL	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	p. 113
COMMUNION		

THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

This is the joyful feast of the people of God! According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him. This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites those who trust him to share the feast which he has prepared.

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.

We give thanks to you, O God, creator, redeemer, sustainer of all. You made your covenant with us, calling us to love and serve you. When we are wandering in sin you forgive us and lead us home. We give thanks for Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lived and died and rose for us, and is coming in glory to reign.

With thanksgiving, we remember how Jesus took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat. Do this in remembrance of me." With thanksgiving, we remember how Jesus took the cup, saying: "This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. As often as you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

Remembering Christ's saving love, we celebrate this holy meal and offer ourselves to you, O God, with gratitude and praise.

Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, O God, on your people gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. By your Spirit make us one body in Christ, one in mission and ministry to the world. Nourish us in faith, hope, and love, and strengthen us for service, until we feast with you in glory. All praise and honor and glory are yours, holy God, now and forever. **Amen.**

COMMUNION

Jesus said: "I am the bread of life."

Jesus said: "I am the vine, you are the branches." "Come to me and never be hungry; believe in me and never thirst."

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Please come to the front using the center aisle. Break off a piece of bread and dip it into the cup. After you have communed please return to your seat using the side aisles. If you prefer, remain in your seat and we will come to serve you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, long ago you sent your angels through the midnight of the sleeping world to tell the shepherds that Christ was born in Bethlehem.

Come to our dark world, and stir our hearts to hear again their message of your love for us in Christ. Help us grow in faith and understanding of your call to us. Move us to wonder and to praise.

O God, on this night of expectant wonder, we tread again the path to Bethlehem and to the child whose birth was heralded by prophets, proclaimed by angels, and welcomed by shepherds.

In the quiet of this hour, touch us with your Holy Spirit, so we may know again the wonder of your love for us. There was no room in Bethlehem's inn but help us to make room in our hectic lives to receive Christ's peace and show Christ's love.

We give you thanks, O God, for the gift of Christ, for shining light into our darkness.

With the singing angels, let us praise your name, and tell the earth this story. Help us all walk together, work together, eat together, and in the breaking of bread and sharing of the cup, may we feel our hearts filled and our spirits revived. We pray in the name of the one who came and who is coming again, Amen.

SHARING OF THE GIFTS OF GOD

OFFERTORY *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* Smith

***DOXOLOGY** ("Praise God, from Whom all Blessings Flow") *Hymnal* #607

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

EIGHTH LESSON John 1:1-14 David King

The Word of God becomes flesh and lives among us, full of grace and truth
(Our worship will continue in the Narthex. Please take a candle as you leave and form a circle.)

LIGHTING OF INDIVIDUAL CANDLES

CAROL *Silent Night, Holy Night* p. 7 (in bulletin)

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

CAROL *Joy to the World* p. 7 (in bulletin)
(Hold candles high on last verse)

EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

Go forth into the world rejoicing. Love and serve the Lord.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and blessed New Year.

*** Those who are able, please stand.**

Lay Reader: Lawrence Fikes

Ushers: The Mosley Family

Communion Steward: Tommy Dunlap

Central's Esemble

Trumpet: Avery Peyton

Clarinet: Denise Mosley

Tuba: Logan Mosley

Announcements

Joy to the World

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.

Joy to the earth! the savior reigns;
Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills,
and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and
grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders, of his love.

2016 Offering Envelopes are available. They are located on the table in the Narthex.

The Church Office Will Be Closed Friday, December 25, in observance of Christmas Day.

The Choir Will Not Meet Wednesday, December 30.

The Church Office Will Be Closed Friday, January 1, 2016, in observance of New Year's Day.

We Will Take Our Christmas Decorations down on Saturday, January 2, 2015. Volunteers are needed and welcomed.

There Will Be a PW General Meeting following worship January 10, 2015, in the Perdue Library.