



CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
6300 Trinity Drive, Pine Bluff, Arkansas
Sunday, December 24, 2023, 5:30 PM



"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem!

Behold, your King is coming to you;

He is just and having salvation,

lowly and riding on a donkey,

a colt, the foal of a donkey."

(Zechariah 9:9)

GREET THOSE AROUND YOU IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

CHRISTMAS EVE PRELUDE

Organ/Piano: Young Ju Oh

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Family

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Jai Kwak

OPENING CAROL #123 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

PRAYER OF PRAISE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE (Together)

O Divine One, on this night of starlight and whispers, You birthed the Universe's heartbeat, swaddled in the quiet embrace of night. The Savior cradled in straw, bids us near, to bathe in the mystery of Your boundless love. May our voices, like celestial echoes, weave with the angels' song, a symphony of praise that pierces the heavens. Grant us, as the shepherds, to seek and find the promised One, Jesus, Messiah, our everlasting Lord. In the holy dance of Spirit, Father, and Son, You reign, forevermore. Amen

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

THE CHRISTMAS STORY: HOW JESUS CAME INTO OUR WORLD

(Dominik Munn)

Matthew 1:18–23 (NASB95)

- 18** Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.
- 19** And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly.
- 20** But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.
- 21** “She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”
- 22** Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet:
- 23** “**BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL,**” which translated means, “**GOD WITH US.**”

CAROL # 110 Love Has Come

THE CHRIST STORY: WHY JESUS CAME INTO OUR WORLD

(Logan Mosley)

John 1:1–13 (NASB95)

- 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- 2 He was in the beginning with God.
- 3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.
- 4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.
- 5 The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.
- 6 There came a man sent from God, whose name was John.
- 7 He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him.
- 8 He was not the Light, but *he came* to testify about the Light.
- 9 There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.
- 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.
- 11 He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.
- 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name,
- 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

CAROL # 133 O Come All Ye Faithful

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

THE COMMUNION: CELEBRATING JESUS IN OUR LIVES

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up 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, eternal God, our creator. You have given us life and second birth in your Spirit. Once we were no people, but now we are your people. You claimed Israel as your chosen nation and raised up the church as a witness to the resurrection, breathing into it your life and power. From worlds apart, you gathered us together. When we go astray, you welcome us home. Always, your love has been steadfast. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the choirs of heaven and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As Christ our Savior taught us, we are bold to pray:

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, O God, that through Word and Sacrament you have given us your Son, Who is the true bread from heaven and food of eternal life. So strengthen us in your service that our daily living may show our thanks, Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

LIGHTING OUR CHRISTMAS CANDLES

SING OUR JOY BY CANDLELIGHT

#147 The First Noel

#123 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

#134 Joy to the World

#122 Silent Night, Holy Night

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION