



From A Sanctified Art

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2017

10:45pm

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church

PRELUDE

A Medley of Christmas Songs & Carols

Cal Sweeten, hammered dulcimer

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Fred Holbrook

One: There is good news of great joy for all! Our Savior is born: the Messiah, the Lord.

All: Glory to God in the highest; peace to God's people on earth. Let us worship God.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Bob & Poppy Zurcher

One: Hope leads us out of the darkness and toward God's Light. Peace starts with small steps that move us closer to God's Light. Love shines light on what is possible. Joy bursts forth wherever God's Light shines.

One: God's Light is in the hope that leads us out of darkness. It is in the peace that moves us toward the Light. God's Light shows us what is possible. It is in the joy of Jesus' birth!

All: The waiting is over! Let there be Light! Amen!

Sing 119 *(vs. 1)*

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

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!"

*HYMN 113

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

GLORIA

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

God, our Savior, we confess that we fail to live in your light. We pursue worldly passions and revere false idols. We cherish our possessions and spurn your good gifts. Forgive us, God of grace. Teach us to live as your people, following your holy way, and rejoicing in your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Tonight, there is good news to share, joy to declare. Sisters and brothers, as we celebrate the birth of Christ, let us declare the good news together:

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen!

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: May the peace of Christ be with you and everyone.

All: And also with you and all others!

(Let us greet one another with expressions of love.)

*HYMN 132 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" IN DULCI JUBILO

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 9:2-7
(Old Testament, p. 638)

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Luke 2:1-14
(New Testament, p. 58)

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON "The Old, Old Story" Fred Holbrook

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Invitation

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Words of Institution

GIFTS OF MUSIC AND SHARING OF THE MEAL

(During carols and solos, ushers will direct the congregation to gather at the Chancel steps to receive the bread and cup. Trays contain red wine and white grape juice. A gluten-free option is available.)

CAROL 133 (vss. 1 & 3) "O Come, All Ye Faithful" ADESTE FIDELES

CAROL 123 (vss. 1, 4 & 5) "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" CAROL

INSTRUMENTAL MEDITATION "Ave Maria" by Charles Gounod
Bob Dover, clarinet
*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.*

CAROL 145 "What Child Is This" GREENSLEEVES

SOLO "Noel" by Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash,
Donna Goeckler, soloist & Matt Redman

OFFERING & OFFERTORY "Mary Had a Baby" arr. Douglas E. Wagner
Linda Dover, organ

SOLO "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" arr. Mark Hayes
Bob Dover, baritone African-American Spiritual

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SHARING THE LIGHT – CANDLE LIGHTING

(We will light one another's candles reminding us of the coming of the Light of the World.)

*CAROL 122

“Silent Night, Holy Night!”
Christopher Callender, guitar

STILLE NACHT

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! 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.

*BENEDICTION

(After the service, please leave your extinguished candle in the Concourse.)

*POSTLUDE

“A Festal Fanfare”
Linda Dover, organ

J. S. Bach
arr. Van Denman Thompson

** = If convenient/able, please stand.*

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*******ANNOUNCEMENTS*******

WELCOME to this Service of Carols, Music, and Communion. It is good to have you in the congregation.

We extend a special **THANK YOU** to musicians Donna Goeckler, Bob Dover, Christopher Callender, Cal Sweeten, and Linda Dover.

Remember, there will be **ONE WORSHIP SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31**, at 10am. Jennifer Battaglioli will be preaching.

Tonight our **OFFERING** has been designated for the Presbyterian Church (USA) Christmas Joy Offering to help support the assistance programs of the Board of Pensions and the racial-ethnic schools and colleges of our denomination.



GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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