

# GOD BLESS US EVERY ONE

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES



GRACE COVENANT  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*December 24, 2018*  
*5pm*

# Christmas Eve

*As the organ chimes begin please become quiet as we prepare for worship.*

CHRISTMAS CHIMES

Linda Dover, organ

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Christ is born!

All: **Alleluia!**

One: Jesus is among us!

All: **Alleluia!**

One: Shout with joy, give thanks, and sing!

All: **Christ is born!**

ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING (*see insert*)

Amy, Molly & Charlotte Lafferty, readers

\*HYMN 110

“Love Has Come”

BRING A TORCH

INVITATION TO WONDER

ANTHEM

“Sing Noel”

by Allen Pote

Exaltation! – Donna Heer, accompanist

\*CHRISTMAS PRAYER

**Loving God, deep in the night, when all the world had locked the doors on love and closed the shutters on hope, you pierced the darkness with light and a baby’s cry. Never again shall we be alone. No more shall we sit in fear. For Christ, the light of the world and of our lives, is born. God of angels and babies, open us once again to this miracle, this wonder that you became one with us. Let us join the choirs of angels and sing: Glory to God! Amen.**

\*HYMN 133

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ADESTE FIDELES

## The Christmas Story

From the Gospels of Luke and Matthew

## A Baby Is Born — Luke 2:1–7

HYMN 115 “Away In A Manger” MUELLER

## Surprise Visitors — Luke 2:8

HYMN 120 “Where Shepherds Lately Knelt” MANGER SONG  
*(verse 1, Josh Sutherland; verse 2, all)*

HYMN 119, *verse 1* “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” MENDELSSOHN

HYMN 113 “Angels We Have Heard on High” GLORIA  
*(Angel choir sings refrain; verse 1, all)*

## Simeon — Luke 2:25–27

ANTHEM “A Celtic French Carol” arr. Lynn Shaw Bailey &  
Exaltation! – Donna Heer, violin Chris Pillsbury

## Anna and Simeon — Luke 2:28-38

HYMN 148 “Mary and Joseph Came to the Temple” EVENING HYMN  
*(verse 1, Andrew Alka; verses 2 and 3, all)*

## Visitors from the East — Matthew 2:1–12

Hymn 151, *verses 1 and 5* “We Three Kings” KINGS OF ORIENT

\*Hymn 134 “Joy to the World” ANTIOCH

*(As we sing the children will return to sit with their families.  
If your child needs help finding you, come to them.)*

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC “A Christmas Lullaby” by Jason Robert Brown  
Lindsay Callender, soloist

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SHARING THE LIGHT - CANDLE LIGHTING

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

\*HYMN 122 “Silent Night” Christopher Callender, guitar

**Si-lent night. Ho-ly night. All is calm, all is bright,  
‘round yon vir-gin moth-er and child! Ho-ly In-fant, so ten-der and mild,  
Sleep in heav-en-ly peace, sleep in heav-en-ly 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**

*(Please extinguish your candle at the close of the benediction, before people start to move.)*

*Go home tonight and remember this story about God's love. Take some time with your family to talk about the questions you will find in your bulletin. And tomorrow and in the days ahead, share this love and good news, just as those first visitors to Jesus did. Go tell the good news of God's love to all the world!*

**\*POSTLUDE**

**“Arise, Your Light Is Come”**

arr. Lauren Gadd

Linda Dover, organ

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

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**Our thanks to all who helped with our worship this evening!**

Readers: Isaac Buller, Caitlyn Hussey, Olivia Lee, Conor Schesser

Meredith and Chris Cabe – Mary and Joseph

Rowan Cabe – Jesus

Shepherds: Kelly Kowalczewski, Lauren Callender, Ben Mason, Aidan Erckert, Neko Erkert, Josh Sutherland

Angel 1 – Maddie Passett

Angels – Exaltation! Singers

Shirley Sampson – Anna

Harold Frye – Simeon

Wisemen – Charlie Trigger, Leif Johnson, Kat Mason

*(Others may have joined the cast after the bulletin was printed.)*

The Bible readings used in tonight's service are taken from, "Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible" Elizabeth F. Caldwell and Carol A. Wehrheim, editors; Westminster John Knox Press. Revs. Sue and Mitch highly recommend this book for your family. The stories reflect the best in contemporary biblical scholarship and are written in language accessible to children. Each story ends with three questions: Hear, See, and Act. They invite children to engage the story with their own imaginations and to think about the meaning of the story for their own lives. The book is available from many distributors.