

GOD BLESS US EVERY ONE

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES



GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 24, 2018
7:30pm

We welcome all who join us this night, a night when we celebrate the ultimate expression of God's love for all of us – his Son, Jesus Christ. We thank all of you who are present tonight, family and friends. Each individual's presence here this evening is a gift to the rest of us on this night of celebrating God's greatest gift of all — Jesus Christ.

PRELUDE

“How Far Is It to Bethlehem?”
Linda Dover, organ

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

*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!

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH *(see insert)*

Anne & Tom Stroud, readers

*HYMN 110

“Love Has Come”

BRING A TORCH

*CHRISTMAS PRAYER *(unison)*

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: God is in us, God is for us, God is with us, Emmanuel. Amen.

*HYMN 133

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ADESTE FIDELES

God's Word of Light

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6–7

ANTHEM

“Sing We Noel”
Chancel Choir

by Noël Goemanne

THE SECOND LESSON

Luke 2:1–7

Terri Monrad

HYMN 145

“What Child Is This”

GREENSLEEVES

God's Light Announced

THE THIRD LESSON

Luke 2:8–14

Dave Pack

ANTHEM

“Angels We Have Heard on High”
Chancel Choir

arr. Benjamin Harlan

God's Light Shared

THE FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:15–20

Cindy Schendel

ANTHEM

“Child in the Manger”
Chancel Choir

arr. Lloyd Larson

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

“God Bless Us Every One”

The Revs. Mitch & Sue Trigger

HYMN 123

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

CAROL

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

“O Beauteous Heavenly Light”
Chancel Choir & Zoe Thompson, cello

Based on melody by J. S. Bach
arr. Jay Rouse

God's Light for All Time

REMEMBERING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF SILENT NIGHT

*HYMN 122

“Silent Night”

GLORIA

(At this time, we will all light our candles. Please remain seated and light your candle by tipping it into the flame of the usher or your neighbor. Do not extinguish your candle until after the Litany of Adoration.)

**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.**

*A LITANY OF ADORATION

One: Emmanuel, God-in-us, interrupt and soften our hearts to the message of this hour, that we might turn toward you and have the way prepared in us for your coming.

All: May your light shine!

One: Emmanuel, God-for-us, interrupt and fill our spirits with the courage to admit when we are lost and the insight to recognize that we have been found.

All: May your light shine!

One: Emmanuel, God-with-us, interrupt and open our eyes to the wonder of this night, that we might catch a glimpse of your glory in the simplicity of these moments.

All: May your light shine!

One: Emmanuel, God-in-us, God-for-us, God-with-us; with eyes open, hearts softened, and spirits full, we rejoice that you interrupt what we have in mind in order to bring into being something more than we dare imagine.

All: May your light shine! Amen.

(Please extinguish your candle.)

*HYMN 134

“Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

“Arise, Your Light Is Come”

arr. Lauren Gadd

Linda Dover, organ

(Please leave your extinguished candle in the Concourse and thank you for remembering to do your part in preparing the Sanctuary for our next worship service.)

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11100 College Boulevard ♦ Overland Park, Kansas 66210 ♦ (913) 345-1256 ♦ gcpc.org