



Christmas Eve

Pollocksville Presbyterian Church Holy Communion & Candlelight Service

6:30 pm

December 24, 2024

Prelude

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

by Richard Storts Willis (A. Giamanco 2.Duo)

Welcome and Greeting

The Peace of Christ

Pastor: Let us be salt and light to each other, giving and receiving forgiveness in the name of Christ.

People: **God makes peace within us. Let us claim it. God makes peace between us. Let us share it.**

Pastor: Let us greet one another as a sign of God’s peace. May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

*Call to Worship *(written by Tom Schade)*

~ *Pastor Ken Yearick*

*Gathering Prayer *(in unison)*

Blessed God, we praise you on this holy night for the mystery of your Incarnation. We bless you for the birth of Jesus, and for the gift of your grace. We thank you that you dwell with us in love.

In the name of the infant Jesus we pray for all children and their families. We pray for peace. We pray for those for whom Christ came: those who suffer, those who are lost or lonely, and those who do not know you. We pray for the sick, the powerless and the rejected, those who struggle in life, and all who are oppressed.

Blessed are the poor, and those who mourn. Blessed are the peacemakers. Blessed are those who are persecuted: for among them is Emmanuel.

Holy Spirit, make of our hearts an open manger, that Christ may be born in us anew and live in us always. By your grace help us to receive the gifts of this holy season, to share them with all the world, and to live always in the light of Jesus' presence. Amen

Lighting of the Christ Candle

~ Ed & Noreen Jekel

Speaker: The season for watching and waiting is over. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. This is the light of the world, and the darkness cannot extinguish it.

The Christ candle is lit.

Speaker: “O sing to the Lord a new song; Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of his salvation from day to day. “Declare his glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples” (Psalm 96:1-3).

Speaker: “Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; Bring an offering, and come into his courts. Worship the Lord in holy splendor; Tremble before him, all the earth” (Psalm 96:7-9).

Speaker: “Say among the nations, ‘The Lord is King!’ Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice. He will judge the world with righteousness, And the peoples with his truth” (Psalm 96:10a, 11a, 13b).

All pray: **Lord of all, you who have brought the light to bear on us through sun, moon, and stars, we rejoice tonight for the Light of the World, Jesus Christ, come to earth to save us and redeem us, and bring us into Your fold. May Your light never go out in our hearts, but that it might burn brightly that others may see and believe, through Jesus our Lord, Amen.**

*Hymn

“Joy to The World!”

#40

A Time for Children

“Christ Child”

~ Pastor Ken Yearick

Reading from the Old Testament Prophet Micah 5:2-5a

Hymn

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” (v.1.2)

#44

Reading of the Gospel of John 1:1-7

Hymn "What Child Is This" (v.1.2) #53

Reading of the Gospel of Luke 2:1-20

*Hymn "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" #29

The Mediation "What Would You Have Done?" ~ *Pastor Ken Yearick*

Pastoral Prayer

The Service of Holy Communion

Call to Confession ~ *Pastor Ken Yearick*

Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

Lord of Christmas Peace, we have done wrong. We have tarnished the gift you freely gave. We have buried you so deeply in our hearts, the world doesn't see you. We have not followed Christ, we have ignored your teachings, we have lived lives of apathy against your love, we have built fences and fortresses to push people away, and we have silenced the screams of those in need. Forgive us, we pray. Free us from our sin, Free us from our captivity, Free us to a life lived in Joy through Jesus Christ the- Babe born this day, Amen.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Assurance of God's Pardon (*responsively*)

Pastor: Friends, forgiveness comes from God, who does not count our sin against us. For God has reconciled us through Christ, and entrusts to us the message of reconciliation. Believe the gospel! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

People: **Thanks be to God! Indeed, we are forgiven by the blood of Christ. So let us rejoice and praise the Lord.**

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Invitation

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

Leader: May the Lord Jesus born this night be in your hearts and minds and souls.

People: **And may the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob surround us all with a journey of purpose to the manger.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts so they may be filled with joy and excitement.

People: **We lift them up to praise the Lord in thanksgiving.**

The Institution and Blessing of the Sacraments

The Communion of the People of God *(by Intinction)*

Please come down the aisle to the front of the sanctuary, departing by the side aisles. Please place your offerings and gifts in the offering plates before you share in communion.

The Communion Prayer

*A Carol

“The Debut” *(to the tune of Jingle Bells)*
written by Rev. Christine Sobania Johnson

Stanza 1

The faithful waited long for God to intervene--
To rule with power and might, to give them what they dreamed.
What a big surprise! The Savior was a child!
The Christmas story goes to show God's plans are really wild!

Refrain

In this crowd sing out loud: Glory to the One!
God has made things personal by sending us the Son.
In this crowd sing out loud: Glory! Allelu!
Celebrate the birth of Christ --the day of his debut.

Stanza 2

God's love is for all, there can be no doubt.
The poor, the weak, the small--no one is left out!
The reason Jesus came: God wanted to be near;
God wanted to draw close to us, and that is why we cheer!

Refrain

*Charge and Benediction *(responsively)*

Pastor: It has been done! The News has been shared!

People: **A young maiden will bear a child, and she will call him Jesus.**

Pastor: But that is the beginning of the story, a story that has not yet ended.

People: **A story that includes us, a story of which we are a part.**

Pastor: So we go out to live the story,

People: **to tell of the Hope that is being born among us this Christmas,
to share the Love of the season with the world, to be agents of
Peace in times of trouble, to sing songs of deep and abiding Joy.**

Pastor: As you go, may God go with you, challenging us to respond to God's Call in ways that are new, unexpected and a little unsettling. And as Tiny Tim said so very well... God Bless Us Every One. Amen.

*Taking the Light into The World

Weather permitting, we will take the Christ Candle from the sanctuary, and all will recess outside on the ramp, steps, and sidewalk. We will light our candles from the Christ Candle. Once assembled., we will conclude with "Silent Night, Holy Night."

* * * * *

All hymns from *The Presbyterian Hymnal*

*Please rise in body or spirit

Bold: Congregation Speaks

***On behalf of the Staff and Session, we wish you a very
Blessed and Joyous Christmas.***

