**Crescentville & Frankford Memorial United Methodist Churches**

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

**OF LESSONS AND CAROLS**

**DECEMBER 24, 2022 6:30 & 8:00 PM**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**\*GREETING Isaiah 9:6**

 L: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,

 **P: and the government shall be on his shoulders.**

 L: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor,

 Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

 **P: O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

**\*OPENING CAROL *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*** [VS 1,3,6] **# 234**

 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;

 Come and behold Him, born the King of Angels;

*REFRAIN:* O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation, O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest;  *REFRAIN*

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; *REFRAIN*

**\*Lighting of the Christ Candle**  *Hebrews 1:1-3a*

Jesus Christ is the Light of God!………..**A light no darkness can extinguish!**

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world!..……….**Glory to God in the Highest!**

**\*Carol of Response** ***“Sing We Now of Christmas”*** [VS 1] **# 237**

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Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, sing we here! Hear our grateful praises

to the babe so dear. Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!

Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

**FIRST LESSON** **The Angel Gabriel Visits Mary** **St. Luke 1:26‑33**

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy God sent the angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee named Nazareth. **27** He had a message for a young woman promised in marriage to a man named Joseph, who was a descendant of King David. Her name was Mary. **28** The angel came to her and said, “Peace be with you! The Lord is with you and has greatly blessed you!” **29** Mary was deeply troubled by the angel's message, and she wondered what his words meant. **30** The angel said to her, “Don't be afraid, Mary; God has been gracious to you. **31** You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. **32** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king, as his ancestor David was, **33** and he will be the king of the descendants of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end!”

**CAROL *“To a Maid Engaged to Joseph”* # 215**

 To a maid engaged to Joseph, the angel Gabriel came. “Fear not,” the angel told her,

 “I come to bring good news, good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news.

 “For you are highly favored by God the Lord of all, who even now is with you. You are

 on earth most blest, you are most blest, most blessed, God chose you, you are blessed!”

 But Mary was most troubled to hear the angel’s word. What was the angel saying?

 It troubled her to hear, to hear the angel’s message, it troubled her to hear.

 “Fear not, for God is with you, and you shall bear a Child. His name shall be called

 Jesus, God’s off-spring from on high. And He shall reign for ever, for ever reign on high.”

 “How shall this be?” said Mary, “I am not yet a wife.” The angel answered quickly,

 “The power of the Most High will come upon you shortly, your Child will be God’s Child.

 As Mary heard the angel, she wondered at his words. “Behold, I am your

 handmaid,” she said unto her God. “So be it; I am ready according to Your word.”

**SECOND LESSON**  **Jesus’ Birth Foretold St. Luke 1:34-38**

Mary said to the angel, “I am a virgin. How, then, can this be?”

**35** The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and God's power will rest upon you. For this reason the holy child will be called the Son of God. **36** Remember your relative Elizabeth. It is said that she cannot have children, but she herself is now six months pregnant, even though she is very old. **37** For there is nothing that God cannot do.” **38** “I am the Lord's servant,” said Mary; “may it happen to me as you have said.” And the angel left her.

**CAROL *“What Child Is This”* [VS 1,2,3] # 219**

 What child is this who, laid to rest on Mary’s lap is sleeping?

 Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?

*REFRAIN:*

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

 Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

 Why lies He in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?

 Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. *REFRIAN*

 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant king to own Him;

 the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him. *REFRAIN*

**THIRD LESSON Mary and Joseph Go to Bethlehem St. Luke 2:1‑5**

 At that time Emperor Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Roman Empire. **2** When this first census took place, Quirinius was the governor of Syria. **3** Everyone, then, went to register himself, each to his own hometown. **4** Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the town of Bethlehem in Judea, the birthplace of King David. Joseph went there because he was a descendant of David. **5** He went to register with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him. She was pregnant.

**CAROL *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*** [VS 1-4] **# 230**

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;

Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,

While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,

And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!

So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.

No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,

Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;

Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!

O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!

**FOURTH LESSON** **The Birth in the Manger**  **St. Luke 2:6-7**

And while they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby. **7** She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger—there was no room for them to stay in the inn.

**CAROL *“There’s a Song in the Air”*** [vs 1,2,4] **# 249**

 There’s a song in the air! There’s a star in the sky! There’s a mother’s

 deep prayer and a baby’s low cry! And the star rains its fire

 while the beautiful sing, for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

 There’s a tumult of joy o’er the wonderful birth, for the virgin’s sweet boy

 is the Lord of the earth. Ay! the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,

 for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

 We rejoice in the light, and we echo the song that comes down

 through the night from the heavenly throng. Ay! we shout to the lovely

 evangel they bring, and we greet in his cradle our Savior and King!

**FIFTH LESSON The Angels’ Song** **St. Luke 2:8‑14**

There were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. **9** An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid, **10** but the angel said to them, “Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. **11** This very day in David's town your Savior was born—Christ the Lord! **12** And this is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” **13** Suddenly a great army of heaven's angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God: **14** “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!”

**CAROL *“Angels We Have Heard on High”*** [vs 1-4] **# 238**

 Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o’er the plains,

 And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

*REFRAIN:* Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

 Shepherd why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?

 What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song. *REFRAIN*

 Come, to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;

 Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *REFRAIN*

 See Him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise;

 Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise. *REFRAIN*

**SIXTH LESSON The Shepherds’ Response** **St. Luke 2:15‑20**

When the angels went away from them back into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us.” **16** So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger. **17** When the shepherds saw him, they told them what the angel had said about the child. **18** All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said. **19** Mary remembered all these things and thought deeply about them. **20** The shepherds went back, singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen; it had been just as the angel had told them.

**CAROL *“Angels from the Realms of Glory”*** [vs 1,2]  **# 220**

 Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth;

 ye who sang creation’s story now proclaim Messiah’s birth:

 Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born King.

 Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o’er your flocks by night,

 God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light:

 Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born King.

## CHRISTMAS MEDITATION  *“But Now At Last…”*

**OFFERING**

 **OFFERTORY *“In The Bleak Midwinter”*** ***Rossetti / Holst***

 **\*RESPONSE** **DOXOLOGY (TUNE: THE FIRST NOEL)**

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.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.

\***SERVICE OF CANDLE LIGHTING**

St. Luke 2:20—*“The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God*

 *for all the things they had heard and seen,*

 *which were just as they had been told.”……*

**\*CAROL “Away in a Manger”** [vs 1,2,3] **# 217**

 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down

 his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
 the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus,

 no crying he makes; I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
 and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

 Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay close by me forever,

 and love me, I pray; bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
 and take us to heaven to live with Thee there. And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

**\*CAROL “Silent Night, Holy Night”** [vs 1,2,3,4] **# 239**

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, 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.

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, Son of God, love’s pure light;

radiant beams from Thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

**\*SENDING FORTH AND BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL BENEDICTON “Joy to the World” [vs 1] # 246**

 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;

 Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing,

 And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

\*POSTLUDE

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