

PRAYER

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

SHARING THE LIGHT

(We will light our candles to remember the light coming into the world. Please tip your candle toward the lighted one and pass the light on to those seated with you.)

ANTHEM.....arr. Bock

Peace, Peace

HYMN No. 122 – *Silent Night*

***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! Son of God, loves pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.***

***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.***

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE.....Held

Of the Father's Love Begotten

(Please remain seated with your candles lit until the Postlude concludes.)

**Those who are able, please stand.*

(Hymns and streaming used by permission One License A-715880)

Welcome!

We hope in this service you will encounter the living Christ and experience the warmth of this caring family of faith. Those who are seeking a church to call home are invited to consider becoming a part of our family here at Covenant. ***Merry Christmas!***

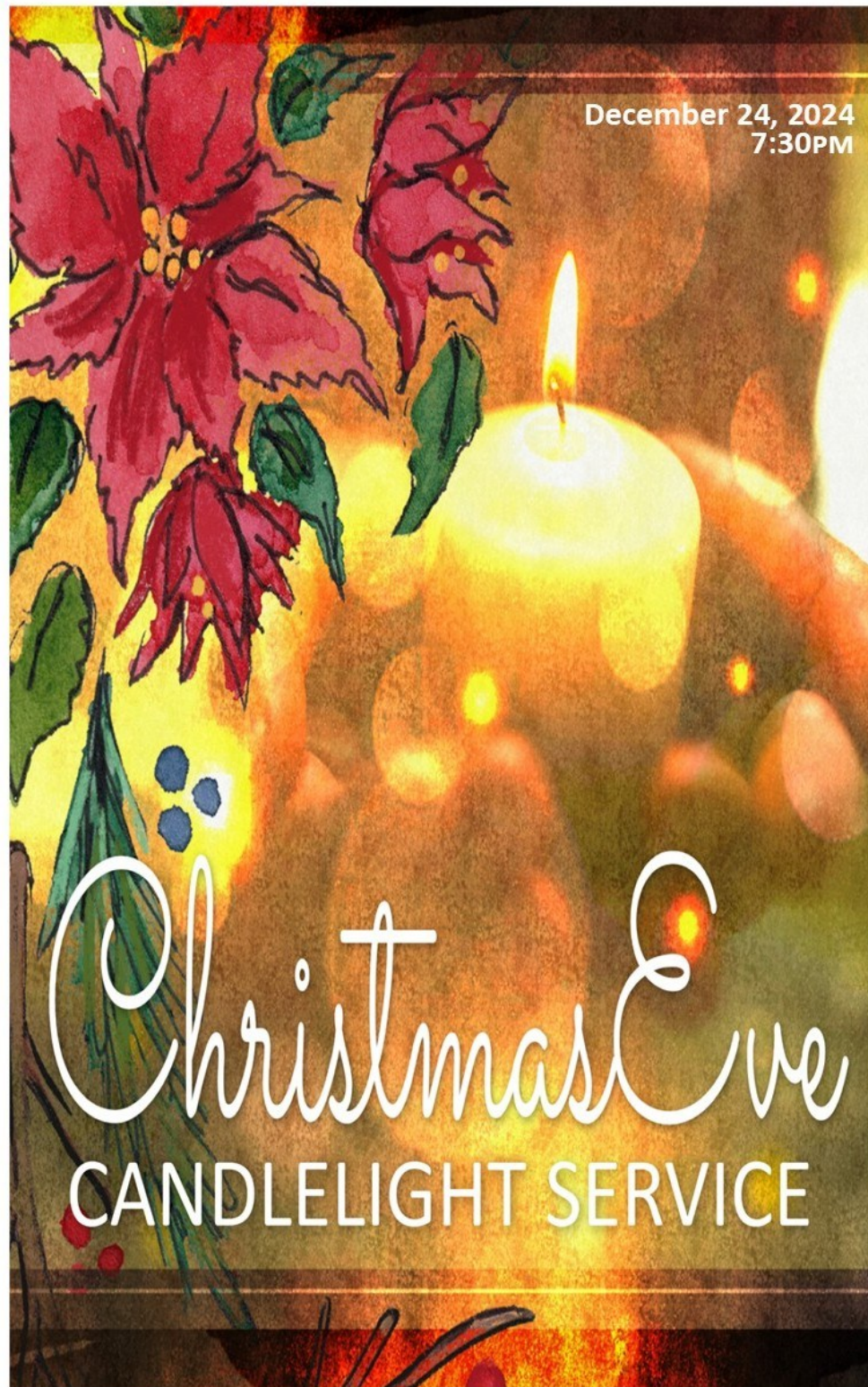
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CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

December 24, 2024

7:30 PM

PRELUDE.....Limbaugh

Joy to the World

WELCOME

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT

Solo: *O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.*

ALL: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE – The Campbell Family

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Luke 1)

Leader: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

People: For the Lord has looked favorably on God's people and redeemed them.

Leader: The Lord has raised up a mighty Savior for us.

People: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high has broken upon us,

Leader: To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

People: To guide our feet into the way of peace.

*HYMN No. 133.....ADESTE FIDELES

O Come, All Ye Faithful

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we gather this night to hear of wondrous things. We come to hear the songs of angels, to see a shining star, and to meet our Savior once again. We confess that we have prepared our homes and our gifts, but we have done little to prepare our hearts for this night. We tremble with anticipation, but also with humble penitence, for we are not worthy to be here. O God of Light, find us in the shadows this holy night! Draw us into the light and warmth of your presence, so that we may find you and welcome you with open arms, with humble hearts, and with knees bent in joyful adoration. Lord, hear our prayer (silent confession) . . . Amen

*DECLARATION OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE – Hymn No. 121, stanza 4

***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!***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING.....Pg. 71 of the New Testament, *Pew Bible*
Luke 2:1-20

SECOND READING.....Pg. 2 of the New Testament, *Pew Bible*
Matthew 2:1-12

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN No. 145 (Stanzas 1, 3).....GREENSLEEVES
What Child Is This

SERMON.....JOHN PETERSON
“THE OTHER WISEMAN” — A Story by Henry Van Dyke

ANTHEM.....John Rutter
The Nativity Carol

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (From the Confession of 1967)

In Jesus Christ God was reconciling the world to God's self. Jesus Christ is God with us. He is the eternal Son of the Father, who became human and lived among us to fulfill the work of reconciliation. He is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete his mission. This work of God – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – is the foundation of all confessional statements about God, humanity, and the world. Therefore, the church calls all people to be reconciled to God and to one another. To God be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations! Amen

*HYMN No. 113.....GLORIA
Angels We Have Heard on High

THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER
(The Sanctus is Hymn No. 562)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

(We will partake of the Communion elements together after all are served.)

Still, Still, StillAustrian Carol

(The Order of Worship continues on the back page)

HYMN No. 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

*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!
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!*

*True God from true God,
Light from light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
very God, begotten, not created!
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;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all
glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!*

*Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!*

HYMN No. 145

What Child Is This

*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?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!*

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high.
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!*

HYMN No. 113

Angels We Have Heard on High

*Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!*