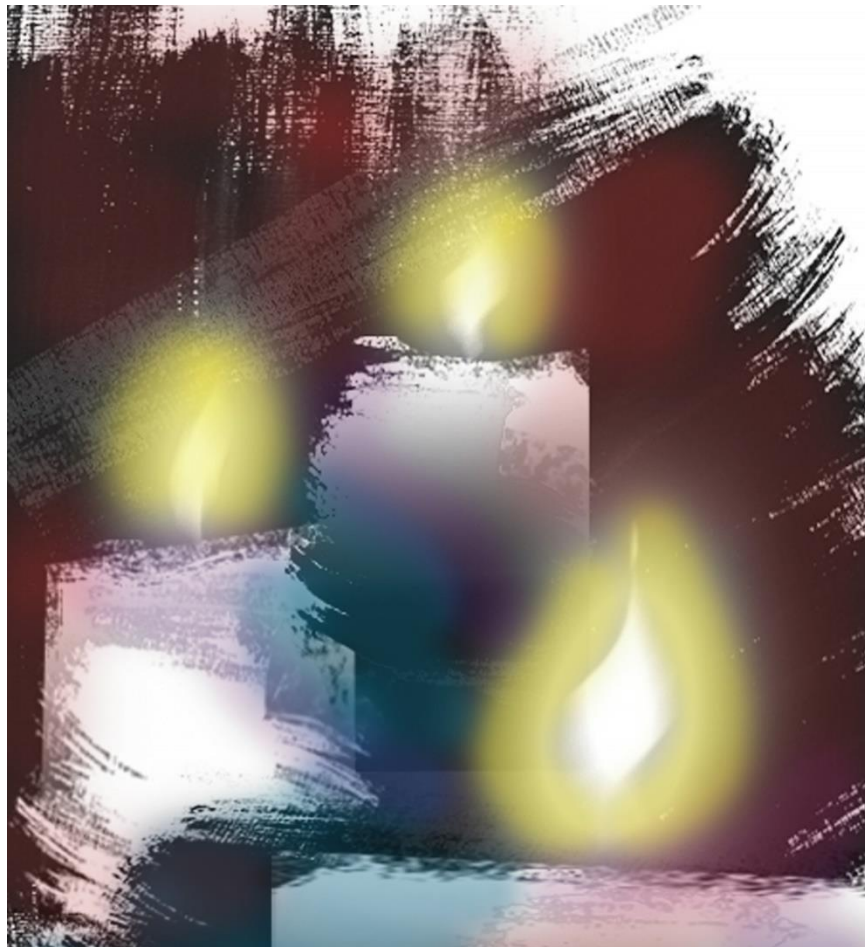




GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Welcome to our online Christmas Eve service.

You will want to have a candle, individual candles, or glow sticks ready
for the candle lighting during “Silent Night.”

(For iPhone users, see also the iPhone App “Candle HD” for a virtual candle.)

Thank you for joining us.

Christmas Eve Service 2020 — 8pm

ENTERING THE MYSTERY “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” DIVINUM MYSTERIUM
David Sutherland, soloist

PRELUDE “What Child Is This?” arr. Rich Heffler
Bob Dover, clarinet & Linda Dover, organist

WELCOME AND INVITATION TO WORSHIP

HYMN 133, vv. 1 & 3 “O Come, All Ye Faithful” ADESTE FIDELIS

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH Liz Chandler, Rebecca Prater, & Bob Dover

HYMN 110, vs. 3 “Love Has Come” BRING A TORCH

Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love!
Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER (*video*)

CAROL ANTHEM “Sing We Now of Christmas” Traditional French Carol
Chancel Singers I arr. John Leavitt
*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 all Noel!*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo! (Glory to God in the highest!)
Angles called to shepherds, "Leave your flocks at rest.
Journey forth to Beth'hem, find the lambkin blest."
From the eastern country came kings from afar,
Bearing gifts to Beth'hem guided by a star.
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all Noel!*

A Child Is Born

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6–7

Linda Dover

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.
For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for
the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. (NRSV)

CAROL ANTHEM

"Still, Still, Still"

Traditional Austrian Carol

Chancel Singers III

new music & arr. by Joey Hoelscher

*Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow.
For all is hushed, the world is sleeping, holy star its vigil keeping.
Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow.
Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth.
The night is peaceful all around you, close your eyes, let sleep surround you.
Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth.
Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.
While guardian angels, without number watch you as you sweetly slumber,
Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.*

THE SECOND LESSON

Luke 2:1–7

David Sutherland

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of

Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. (NRSV)

HYMN 121, vs.1

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ST. LOUIS

This Shall Be a Sign

THE THIRD LESSON

Luke 2:8–14

Karen Kesler

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” (NRSV)

HYMN 113, v. 1

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

GLORIA

And They Came with Haste

THE FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:15–20

Liz Chandler

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. (NRSV)

HYMN 145, vs. 1

“What Child Is This”

GREENSLEEVES

MEDITATION

Rev. Mitch Trigger

CAROL ANTHEM

“God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”

Traditional English Carol

Chancel Singers II

arr. Philip Kern

*God rest you merry, gentlemen let nothing you dismay.
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day;
to save us all from Satan’s pow’r when we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy. O tidings of comfort and joy!
Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
and with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace.
This holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy. O tidings of comfort and joy!*

We Have Seen His Glory

THE FIFTH LESSON

John 1: 9–14, 1:5

Rev. Sue Trigger

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

HYMN 122

“Silent Night”

STILLE NACHT

*(At this time, we will all light our candles.
Do not extinguish your candle until after the Prayer of Joy.)*

***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.

PRAYER OF JOY

HYMN 134, vv. 1 & 4

“Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Joy to the World”

Linda Dover, organ

arr. Wilbur Held

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