



Christmas Eve
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

December 24, 2024

“Whoever believes in me, believes not in me, but in him who sent me.” (Jn 12:44) John couldn’t see the Sender; no one can. But he couldn’t take his eyes off the One the Sender sent, whose story John was given to tell. Now it’s our turn. Jesus said so. Those who believe in him will do the works he did – greater in fact – now that he has returned to the Source. It’s our turn to put our breath behind God’s word so that it lands in our own time and place. However well or poorly things seem to be working out, there is something else at work that has been pouring itself out for us, *forever*, which the darkness has not overcome. Light from Light. Fullness from which we have all received, grace upon grace.

Christmas every day.” Barbara Brown Taylor

Prelude #112 *On Christmas Night All Christians Sing* Evan O'Donovan

Welcome Reverend Ed Hoener

Advent Candle Lighting Ceremony

Scripture Reading

Lighting the Candles Pastor Ed & Diane

Tonight we light the Christ candle rejoicing in the Good news of his birth, He who is the hope, and the light of the world. **With His birth, our eyes become accustomed to God's light. Tonight we re-affirm His birth in our hearts. As this candle burns in the center of this wreath, may His love continually shine in our hearts.**



A New Day is Foretold

The prophet Isaiah said, "The wilderness itself shall be glad, the desert will blossom abundantly. **Every heart that knew fear and suffering - everyone who was blind or deaf or handicapped or ill in any way will be healed.** There will be no war anymore. Nations will unite from all corners of the globe to worship God and learn the ways of peace, love, and wholeness. **Even animals will be at peace; lions and oxen, wolves and lambs, all grazing in the same pasture.** There will be no pain or sorrow of any kind anymore. **All humanity will sing with one voice and everlasting joy and gladness will reign forever."**

Reflection

Carol #88 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* vss. 1, 6, & 7



A New Day Dawns

The Prophet Isaiah said, "The Lord will give you all a sign; a young mother will have a child whose name will be Immanuel which means God is with us. This son has been born for us all, and God's authority will be His to use. **He will be the Wonderful Counselor - teaching the wise ways of God. He will be the Mighty One manifesting God's power to heal and make us whole.** The Spirit of the Lord will work in Him and through Him. **He will be the Prince of Peace, whose power will create peace on earth, and when His kingdom comes, it will never end."**

Ministry of Music *Who Would Imagine a King* Evan O'Donovan

Reflection

Carol #119 *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* vss. 1 & 3



A New Way Arises

The gospel writer Luke said, "The priest Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and he said, Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, for He has looked favorably upon his people and has redeemed them. He has raised up for us a mighty savior. **By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us to give light to those who sit in darkness and to guide our feet into the Way of peace.**"

Reflection

Carol #134

Joy to the World

vss. 1 & 4

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Call to Offering

*Offering Song #710

We are an Offering

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to You, we are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are Yours, we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to You, we give to You. We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to You, we are an offering, we are an offering.

*Prayer of Dedication



A New Life to Live

Reflection

Carol #133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

vss. 1 & 3

Communion Prayer:

We give thanks Lord Jesus, that we are always welcome at Your table. We're thankful that nothing can ever separate us from Your love and that Your purpose is always to take us as we are, and lead us to who we can become with You. **In Your Spirit, we receive so much strength to live our faith.** At this table, we remember Your love O Christ, and the Way you revealed God's purpose to gather all the world into God's new earth of love and peace.

In faith, we hand our lives over to you. We seek to follow in your footsteps. At this table, may the Spirit bless us with the gifts we need to live out God's reign - beginning with this bread and this cup.

We Share the Bread and Cup



A New Light in the World

Reflection

Carol #122

Silent Night

Benediction

Postlude #115

Away in a Manger

Evan O'Donovan

The First Presbyterian Church of Rahway

December 24, 2024

Rev. Ed Hoener

Carol Ann Bregman

Evan O'Donovan

7:30 P.M.

Pastor

Administrator

Music Director