



Christmas Eve

CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulders and his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
Isaiah 9:6

December 24, 2025

5:00 p.m.

As you enter the Sanctuary, all children are encouraged to choose a figure from the nativity scene in the narthex.

At the designated times during the service, children may place their figures in the Bethlehem village at the front of the church.

PRELUDE

"The Coventry Carol"

arr. Michael Scott

PASTORAL WELCOME

Pastor Keith L. DeVries

(Childcare for children up to age 4 is available in Room 102.)

INTROIT

"Rise Up Shepherd and Follow"

Sanctuary Choir

Traditional

* CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Luke 2:10-15

Pastor: Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy.

People: To us is born this day in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

Pastor: This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.

People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!

Pastor: Let us go now to Bethlehem.

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!
 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!

CONFSSION AND PARDON

Pastor: In Jesus Christ our Lord the grace of God has appeared, bringing light to us all. With confidence and joy, let us confess our sin.

All: **Great and glorious God, through Jesus Christ our Savior you have shown us that the blessed age of grace has appeared and the hoped-for time of salvation has come. Yet we cling to the glories of the present age – worldly passions and impious pursuits, self-indulgent, crooked, and ungodly ways. We choose to walk in darkness, unwilling to see the evil your light exposes. Cleanse us and free us; break the yoke we choose to carry. It is through Christ, who gave himself for us, that we are your people, holy and whole.**

Silence

Pastor: Hear this good news of great joy: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

People: Thanks be to God!

The Christmas Story***Told in the Reading of Scripture and the Singing of Carols***

LESSON ONE

Isaiah 9:2-6

CAROL

"On Christmas Night All Christians Sing"

No. 112

Glory to God

1 On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing, to hear the
2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our Re -
3 When sin de - parts be - fore his grace, then life and
4 All out of dark - ness we have light, which made the

news the an - gels bring; on Christ - mas night all
deem - er made us glad; then why should we on
health come in its place; when sin de - parts be -
an - gels sing this night; all out of dark - ness

Chris - tians sing, to hear the news the an - gels bring,
earth be sad, since our Re - deem - er made us glad,
fore his grace, then life and health comes in its place;
we have light, which made the an - gels sing this night:

news of great joy, news of great mirth,
when from our sin he set us free,
heav - en and earth with joy may sing,
"Glo - ry to God in high - est heaven;

news of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.
all for to gain our lib - er - ty?
all for to see the new - born King.
peace on earth and good - will. A - men!"

LESSON TWO

Micah 5:2-5a

CAROL

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

No. 44

(The animals are placed in the manger, except the camel and donkey.)

Presbyterian Hymnal

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.

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!

SONG

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

(verse 2)

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

No. 2

Presbyterian Hymnal

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES & CHRIST CANDLE

Jami, Amelia, & Noah McCray

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

All: Lord Jesus, we celebrate your birth among us again. Alleluia! Amen.

CAROL

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

(Mary, Joseph, and the donkey are placed.)

No. 27

Presbyterian Hymnal

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
There he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.

Angels sang about his birth; wise men sought and found him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth, glory all around him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night; all the hills were ringing.

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
He is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger.
Son of God, of humble birth, beautiful the story;
Praise his name in all the earth; hail the King of glory!

ANTHEM

"Hallelujah to the Newborn King"

Sanctuary Choir

Mary Val Marsh

Sing to the baby hallelu, sing to the baby hallelu.
Oh, what a night in Bethlehem town, all the people do sing
Hallelu! Hallelu! Hallelujah to the newborn King!
Hallelu! Hallelu! Sing hallelujah again.

Sing to the bright star high above, sing to the bright star high above,
Oh, what a night in Bethlehem town, all the people do sing
Hallelu! Hallelu! Hallelujah to the newborn King!
Hallelu! Hallelu! Sing hallelujah again.

His mother sang a lullaby to her little boy.
The sky was bright with heavenly light, and the bells rang for joy.
Sing with the mother and her boy. Sing with the bells that ring for joy.
Oh, what a night in Bethlehem town, all the people do sing
Hallelu! Hallelu! Hallelujah to the newborn King!
Hallelu! Hallelu! Sing hallelujah again. Sing hallelujah again. Sing hallelujah again.

LESSON THREE

Luke 2:1-7

Away in a manger, no crib for His 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 poor Baby wakes,
 But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
 I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
 And stay by my side until 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 fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

CHRISTMAS PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Glory to you, O God, for good news of great joy that you give to all people. Thank you for Jesus Christ, the Messiah, who lived among us and now reigns on high. Thank you for his light that shines in the darkness. With the angels, we sing praise to you, celebrating your glory in all the earth, in the Son given to us, and in your promised salvation.

Silence

Pastor: Gathered as a community on this Christmas Eve, we pray for your church in every place, that we may make known to others what has been told to us about this child. Help us to bear Christ's light in every place of need. Draw near to those who spend this night apart from community: travelers and those far from home, people who live alone, those who wait in hospital rooms, those who sit in prison cells, those who are working deep in the night, those estranged from family or friends. Comfort those who are poor and vulnerable: children at risk, those unhoused on the streets, families that are hungry, and those contending with prejudice and scorn.

Silence

Pastor: Restore those who have lost faith, lost hope, or simply lost their way. End the hostilities and wars we construct by ushering in the endless peace of your design. Establish your reign of justice and righteousness. You are the Lord of hosts who, with zeal, will do this; through Jesus Christ our Savior who taught us to pray:

People: **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.**

CHRISTMAS OFFERING INVITATION AND PRAYER

OFFERTORY

"How Far Is It to Bethlehem"

arr. Molly Ijames

JOYFUL GOOD NEWS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Pastor Ivan N. Herman

LESSON FOUR

Luke 2:8-14

CAROL

"Angels We Have Heard on High"
(*Angels and shepherds are placed.*)

No. 23

Presbyterian Hymnal

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!

LESSON FIVE

Luke 2:15-20

ANTHEM

"Jesus, Jesus Rest Your Head"
Sanctuary Choir

Traditional American Carol
arr. Robert Thygerson

Jesus, Jesus, rest your head, You have got a manger bed.

All the evil folk on earth sleep in feathers at their birth.

Jesus, Jesus, rest your head, You have got a manger bed.

Have you heard about our Jesus, have you heard about His fate?

How His Mother went to the stable on that Christmas Eve so late?

Winds were blowing, cows were lowing, stars were glowing, softly glowing.

Jesus, Jesus, rest your head, You have got a manger bed.

To that manger came three wise men, bringing gifts from hin and yon.

For the mother and the father and the blessed little Son.

Shepherds left their fields and flocks and sat beside the sheep and ox.

Jesus, Jesus, rest your head, You have got a manger bed.

All the evil folk on earth sleep in feathers at their birth.

Jesus, Jesus, rest your head, You have got a manger bed. Jesus rest your head.

LESSON SIX

Matthew 2:1-11

CAROL

"We Three Kings of Orient Are"
(verses 1, 2, 3, & 5)
(*The kings and camels are placed.*)

No. 66

The Presbyterian Hymnal

We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign.

O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!

Frankincense to offer have I: incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising we are raising, worshiping God Most High.

O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies.

O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!

LITANY FOR LIGHTING CANDLES

Pastor: In the beginning and in the midst of darkness, God spoke.

People: Let there be light.

Pastor: In the beginning was the Word. And the Word came and dwelt among us. And the Word was the light of all peoples.

People: Let there be light.

Pastor: We light our candles, knowing that the One who is the source and promise of all light is the One whose birth we celebrate.

People: Let there be light.

Pastor: We need to know that we are part of something greater than the flicker of our own little candles. We long to be assured that the light of Christ is with us in every moment.

People: Let there be light.

Pastor: So we light our candles in gratitude for the love and light that shine through the babe born in Bethlehem who became the Redeemer of us all.

People: Let there be light.

Pastor: May we be bold to share the love of God with a world longing for light and hope, purpose and love. May our actions and generosity shine bright.

People: Let there be light.

*Jesus is the light of the world. As His followers, we are called to receive His light
and carry Him into the darkness of today.
Watch the light change as the light of Christ spreads among us.*

CAROL

"Silent Night"

No. 60

The Presbyterian Hymnal

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, 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.

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.

BENEDICTION

* CONGREGATION DEPARTS IN JOY

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

Christmas Eve 2025

Instructions for Lighting Your Candle

As we reflect upon the light of God's love which is revealed to us in the birth of Jesus Christ, we light candles to remind us that God's love brings light in the darkness. Tonight, just prior to singing "Silent Night," all of the lights in the Sanctuary will be turned off. **When Pastor Keith and Pastor Ivan turn on their candles, you are invited to turn on your candle using the switch at the bottom symbolizing how the light of God's love comes into the world.** Please turn off your candle following the benediction and place it in a basket as you exit.

Silent Night, Holy Night

This Christmas hymn was originally written by Joseph Mohr for a Christmas festival at St. Nicholas Church, Oberndorf, near Salzburg, Austria. The story is told that the organ was not functioning the day of the service and Mohr decided to write a new hymn that would not require organ accompaniment. He took it to his friend, Franz Xaver Gruber, and asked him to write a suitable tune. The two sang the new hymn as Gruber accompanied on the guitar. The village choir joined in, repeating the last line of each stanza in four-part harmony. As we sing this hymn tonight, may we lift our voices in prayerful praise with those who have been singing this hymn since 1831.

Special Thanks

We extend our gratitude to our excellent musicians and audio/visual technicians for their dedication and hard work and for sharing their gifts with us during the season of Advent and Christmas. We especially thank CPC's Director of Music Keith Atwater, Pianist Trina Spivack, Flutist Susan Herman, Percussionists Rigsby Burns and Michael Lombrano, and the Sanctuary Choir as they lead us in singing and praise this evening.

Please Join Us for Worship

If you do not already have a church home, we invite you to call Carmichael Presbyterian your church home. ALL are welcome to worship on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in-person or online via YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@carmichaelpres>).

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