



CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 22, 2024

Livestream & In-Person

10:00 a.m.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Ivan N. Herman

Click [HERE](#) to register your attendance

* GREETING ONE ANOTHER

INTROIT

“Enter the Stable Gently”

Spanish carol arr. Hal Hopson

Sanctuary Choir

Linda Franke, Karen Gray, and Lynette Ledesma, handbells

Enter the stable gently the Babe is sleeping; enter the stable gently the Babe is sleeping.
Kneel down in awe and wonder, here lies the Savior, the Son of God.

To the stranger who knocks here, welcome this holy night. To the weak and lonely, He is the star so bright. Wise men their gifts are bringing, angels are singing. Enter the stable gently, enter so gently.

Enter the stable gently the Babe is sleeping; enter the stable gently the Babe is sleeping.
Kneel down in awe and wonder, here lies the Savior, the Son of God.

To the poor and the humble, see where the Savior lies; in a stable lowly, yet King of earth and sky.
Wise men their gifts are bringing, angels are singing. Enter the stable gently, enter so gently.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Donovan Parker

Leader: Not in the mighty places of power, but in little Bethlehem, in a room out back:

People: The Messiah is coming.

Leader: Not born in nobility and wealth, but of Mary and Joseph, who pondered and who planed wood:

People: The Messiah is coming.

Leader: Not announced by prophets, priests, and kings, but by two women, who were the first to know:

People: The Messiah is coming.

Leader: Nothing will be impossible for God, but when and where we least expect it, look among the straw and the stars:

People: The Messiah is coming.

* OPENING HYMN

"To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary"

No. 98

Glory to God



1 To a maid whose name was Mar - y, the an - gel Ga-briel came.
2 "For you are high - ly fa - vored by God the Lord of all,
3 But Mar-y was most trou-bled to hear the an-gel's word.
4 "Fear not, for God is with you, and you shall bear a child.
5 "How shall this be?" said Mar - y, "I am not yet a wife."
6 As Mar-y heard the an - gel, she won-dered at his words.



"Fear not," the an - gel told her, "I come to bring good news;
who e - ven now is with you. You are on earth most blest;
What was the an - gel say - ing? It trou-bled her to hear,
His name shall be called Je - sus, God's off-spring from on high.
The an - gel an-swered quick - ly, "The power of the Most High
"Be - hold, I am your hand-maid," she said un - to her God.



good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news."
you are most blest, most bless - ed; God chose you, you are blest!"
to hear the an - gel's mes - sage, it trou-bled her to hear.
And he shall reign for - ev - er, for - ev - er reign on high."
will come up - on you short - ly, your child shall be God's child."
"So be it; I am read - y ac - cord - ing to your word."

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Donovan Parker

Leader: In the world, and in this season, there are many claims on our lives. We take this time to remember that in our baptism, Christ claimed us as his own. We acknowledge before God and one another that we have not followed Jesus Christ with all our heart and mind and strength. Trusting in God's grace, let us pray:

All: **God our Savior, we ask for your mercy. Though we have heard Mary's song, we still seek security in pride and power and possessions. Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you. We pass by those considered lowly in this world. We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for the justice you intend. Make us messengers of the peace you bring. As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.**

Silence

Leader: Friends, God is for us and not against us. For that very reason, God sent the Son into the world—not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Believe the good news:

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

* RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

"Wait for the Lord"

No. 90
Glory to God



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.



Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

ADVENT READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Reader: "In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

People: He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

Reader: He has come to the aid his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

ANTHEM

"Sleep Little King"

Nancy Price & Don Besig

Sanctuary Choir

Bev Harris, clarinet and Will Condrey, percussion

It all began so long ago in a stable far away.
 A mother laid her newborn son in a manger full of hay.
 All the world was fast asleep beneath a winter sky.
 While she rocked the tiny babe she sang her lullaby.

Sleep little king while the angels in heaven sing.
 Dream through the night until the morning light.
 Sleep little king oh what a wonderful joy you bring;
 sent from heaven above to share with us God's gift of love.

The shepherds saw a shining star and went to Bethlehem.
 Mighty kings from distant lands brought gifts of gold to Him.
 Like they did on that holy night, once again we follow the star.

Sleep little king while the angels in heaven sing.
 Dream through the night until the morning light.
 Sleep little king oh what a wonderful joy you bring;
 sent from heaven above to share with us God's gift of love.

TIME FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

(Children are invited to the front of the church. Afterwards, children 4 years old through 5th grade are invited to Sunday School in Room 205 and 207.)

* SONG

“Prepare the Way of the Lord”

Jacques Berthier

Prepare the way of the Lord.
Prepare the way of the Lord,
And all people shall see the salvation of our God.

SCRIPTURE READING

Micah 5:2-5a

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.
³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.
⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth,
⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.

SERMON

The God of Nooks and Crannies

Pastor Keith L. DeVries

OFFERING AND PRAYER

OFFERTORY

“Ding Dong! Merrily on High”

arr. Lloyd Larson

Mission Bells

Rikki Pratt, Director

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: Come, O Come, Emmanuel ...

Pastor: Come to bring peace to those at war with themselves, their families, their enemies. May those who govern do so with good will and justice, breaking down barriers, fostering understanding, and drawing our communities and our nations together in peace.

All: Come, O Come, Emmanuel ...

Pastor: Come to bring comfort to those in pain, those who grieve, those in need of healing and restoration. May all who suffer be assured of your extravagant grace and comforted by the hope that nothing shall separate them from your love.

All: Come, O Come, Emmanuel ...

Pastor: Come to bring compassion to those who are weak and weary, those who stumble through their days unable to recognize the beauty and meaning of life. May those who are unemployed, those who are struggling financially, those suffering under the crushing weight of debt, find your way out of no way. Grant them options, God. Grant them hope.

All: Come, O Key of David, O Radiant Dawn, O Root of Jesse, O Emmanuel.

Pastor: Come to us again this Christmas. Fill the world with your grace and peace.

Finally, hear us now, as we pray the prayer Christ taught us by saying together:

All: 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

(If you would like to privately share a concern, thanksgiving, or request for healing, please come to the Stephen Ministry banner on the east wall of the Sanctuary immediately following the service for individual prayer with a Stephen Minister.)

1 O sing a song of Beth-le-hem, of shep-herds watch - ing there,
 2 O sing a song of Naz - a - reth, of sun - ny days of joy;
 3 O sing a song of Gal - i - lee, of lake and woods and hill,
 4 O sing a song of Cal - va - ry, its glo - ry and dis - may,

and of the news that came to them from an-gels in the air.
 O sing of fra - grant flow-ers' breath, and of the sin - less boy.
 of him who walked up - on the sea and bade its waves be still.
 of him who hung up - on the tree, and took our sins a - way.

The light that shone on Beth-le-hem fills all the world to - day.
 For now the flowers of Naz - a - reth in ev - ery heart may grow.
 For though, like waves on Gal - i - lee, dark seas of trou - ble roll,
 For he who died on Cal - va - ry is ris - en from the grave,

Of Je - sus' birth and peace on earth the an-gels sing al - way.
 Now spreads the fame of his dear name on all the winds that blow.
 when faith has heard the Mas - ter's word, falls peace up-on the soul.
 and Christ, our Lord, by heaven a - dored, is might-y now to save.

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

“Joy to the World”
Nell Treon, piano

Traditional carol

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

Call to Worship, Confession and Pardon from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*, © Westminster John Knox Press 2013.

Prayers of the People by Teri McDowell Ott © *Presbyterian Outlook*, 2024, adapted.

Advent Candle Liturgy by Dr. Montisa Annfionette Watkins and Rev. Sharon Starling-Louis © *Presbyterian Outlook*, 2024, adapted

All music used in this program is copyrighted. Used by permission CCLI #74647.

Music reprinted/streamed with permission under One License #740355-A. All rights reserved.

Audio/Video: Michael Gray and Noor Bitar

Music Director: Keith Atwater

Guest Pianist: Trina Spivack

Piano: Gabe Bisho

Drums: Will Condrey

Guitar: Michael Schwab

Bass: Merlyn van Regenmorter

Vocalists: Tara Calderon, Beth Lindley, and Julie Ueltzen

