

ORDER OF WORSHIP

* Please stand as you are able

WELCOME

PRELUDE • *Silent Night* - Davis

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

* CALL TO WORSHIP

In the holy darkness of this night,
amid labor pains and newborn cries,
angel songs and tremors of fear,
tears of relief and looks of amazement,
our Savior takes His first breath.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel has come to us.

* OPENING PRAYER

On this day, gratitude overflows from our hopeful hearts, for the yoke of our burden, the bar across our shoulders, the rod of our oppressor have been shattered—through peace, through justice, through righteousness, through the child—Jesus. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 2:1-20
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL • ***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!**

**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!**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC • ***O Holy Night***

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

God Most High, Your only Son embraced the weakness of flesh, to give us power to become Your children; Your eternal Word chose a dwelling among us, that we might live in Your presence. Grant us a spirit of wisdom to know how rich is the glory You have made our own, and how great the hope to which we are called in Jesus Christ, Your Word made flesh, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in the splendor of eternal light, God forever and ever. Amen.

SERMON

“CHRISTMAS PEOPLE” • The Rev. Dr. W. Darren Bess

CAROL • ***Do You Hear What I Hear?***

**Said the night wind to the little lamb
Do you see what I see?
Way up in the sky, little lamb
Do you see what I see?
A star, a star, dancing in the night
With a tail as big as a kite
With a tail as big as a kite**

**Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy
Do you hear what I hear?
Ringin' through the sky, shepherd boy
Do you hear what I hear?
A song, a song high above the trees
With a voice as big as the sea
With a voice as big as the sea**

**Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king
Do you know what I know?
In your palace warm, mighty king
Do you know what I know?
A Child, a Child shivers in the cold
Let us bring Him silver and gold
Let us bring Him silver and gold**

**Said the king to the people everywhere
Listen to what I say!
Pray for peace, people, everywhere
Listen to what I say!
The Child, the Child sleeping in the night
He will bring us goodness and light
He will bring us goodness and light**

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC *The First Noel* - arr. Dan Forrest

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE **Refrain from *Angels We Have Heard on High*
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CAROL • ***Joy to the World***

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare Him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness
and wonders of His love,
and wonders of His love,
and wonders, wonders of His love.**

CANDLELIGHT AND CAROL

Candle Lighting Ceremony • Night of Silence/Silent Night

During the singing of Night of Silence by the choir, The Rev. Dr. Darren Bess will light his candle from the Christ Candle and then pass that light to the ushers' candles. The light of the ushers' candles will then be passed to those closest to the center aisle, who will then pass it on so that all in each pew receive the light.

To light your candle, tip the unlit candle into the flame of the lighted candle. Once your candle is lit, please hold it upright. At the close of the service, please extinguish your candles and place them in the baskets at the narthex doors as you leave the church.

At the choir director's cue, please join in singing 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, 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

In darkness we arrived,
in light we now leave,
though we may stumble,
we walk in grace.
Rise up and go, for God is among us
now and forever Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

POSTLUDE • *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* - Young



SERVING TODAY

OFFICIATING MINISTER

The Rev. Dr. W. Darren Bess, Senior Pastor

CANDLE LIGHTERS

Steve & Cathy House

LITURGIST

John Gehrig

MUSICIANS

Justin Chase, Director of Music
Penny Walsh, Organ
Sarah Thomas, Cello

AUDIO/VISUAL

Carole Reece
Doug Reece
Nelson Roe
Carissa Taylor

MUSIC NOTES

CCLI License number -11184426; One License.net
number - 725233; CVLI number - 505405959

The Session

2022	2023	2024
Theresa Coker	Syd Davis	Mike Galyean
Bonnie Gaughan	Fred Kittinger	John Gehrig
Fran Morrissey	Malcolm MacDiarmid	Jayne Leach
Michelle Trahan	Jim McKinney	Audrey Santiago
Jay Van Hook	Dawn Sumrall	Sara Van Arsdel

The Diaconate

2022	2023	2024
Jane Munns	Ron Ellman	Ardyth Austin
Rachel Myers	Betty Johnston	Lisa Dreasher
Christine Rich	Sevilla Morse	Jerry Fitzgerald
Meg Ball Thomas	Cynthia Nants	Nancy Galyean
Jeanne Vinci	Jyme Smith	Andy Riccio

Missions Supported by WPPC

Audrey Santiago, *Transitions Orphan Assistance Foundation*, Ukraine
Dr. Robert Gamble, *This Child Here*, Ukraine
Dennis & Susan Walters, *SIL*, Asia
Steve & Sonia Dettweiler, *Wycliffe*, Nigeria
Dr. Anne Hallum, *A.I.R. (Alliance for Reforestation)*, Guatemala

PC(USA) World Missions

Mark Hare & Jenny Bent, Costa Rica
Dan & Elizabeth Turk, Madagascar

Staff

The Rev. Dr. W. Darren Bess, Senior Pastor	Carolyn Achenbach, Director of Operations/Accountant
Justin Chase, Director of Music	Cindy Mitchum, Executive Assistant
Penny Walsh, Organist	Barbara Hordern, Administrative Assistant
Sandra Shafer, Pianist	Tricia Wilson, Director of Preschool Programs
	Kenny Lovelace, Sexton



Winter Park
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 24, 2022



With great joy we welcome you to our Christmas Eve Candlelight service. Tonight we join together in celebration of the birth of our savior. It is our hope that on this holy night you will find the scripture, songs, prayers, and reflections we share to be a blessing to you in your personal journey of faith. May the joyous wonder of God's precious and unfathomable gift fill you with faith, hope, and love on this night and always.