

ORDER OF WORSHIP

* Please stand as you are able

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.

WELCOME

PRELUDE • *There's Still My Joy* - Chapman, Manchester & Rollings

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*

SERMON

“MEDITATION” • The Rev. Dr. W. Darren Bess

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.

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Masters in This Hall/God Rest ye Merry Gentleman - Purifoy*

* 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 • *Fantasy on Joy to the World*



✠ SERVING TODAY ✠

OFFICIATING MINISTER: The Rev. Dr. W. Darren Bess, Senior Pastor
LITURGIST: Pat Morgan
ADVENT LIGHTERS Richard & Jeanne Vinci and Mark, Madeleine & Oliver Bergman
MUSICIANS: Justin Chase, Director of Music
Penny Walsh, Organ
Jackson Chase, Soloist
AUDIO/VISUAL: Carole Reece, Doug Reece, Nelson Roe & Carissa Taylor

✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

WELCOME

We are so glad you are here to worship with us today! Worship services are also available online. Sermons can be found at www.winppc.org/sermons.

WHITE SOCKS

Please bring NEW WHITE SOCKS and deposit them in the marked containers in the front office. We will be accepting the socks through the end of December. The Hannah Circle will be folding and packing them for the January Meal. The recipients of these socks are the people that come to the Coalition for the Homeless for an evening meal, or they are residents in the program. Our church has been doing this drive for over 20 years and have dispensed literally thousands of pairs of socks. It's hard to describe the joy and thanks that is expressed for these simple gifts.

KING'S BRASS CONCERT—ONE SERVICE AT 10:30 AM ON JANUARY 7TH

Tim Zimmerman and the King's Brass provide innovative worship for young and old alike through the "best in sacred brass music." By teaming together, these Christian professionals from around the United States perform their original arrangements as heard on their fifteen recordings. For forty years, The King's Brass have performed over one hundred concerts each season with three trumpets, three trombones, a tuba, keyboards, and percussion. Playing a wide variety of music from Gabrieli to hymn classics, from Handel to jazz spirituals, from Christmas carols to patriotic marches, The King's Brass uses all corners of the concert hall to lift hearts and spirits in praise. Join us at our 10:30am worship service on January 7th to hear this amazing concert! There will be no 8:15am service.

✠ COMMUNICATION INFORMATION ✠

PASTORAL CARE

If you (or someone you know) are going through a difficult time, please reach out to us. Our Deacons and pastoral care staff are available for support, home and hospital visits, and prayer. Please contact Dr. Darren Bess at 407-647-1467 or darrenb@winppc.org. For pastoral emergencies when the church office is closed, call 407-647-1467 x 112.

PUBLICITY

If you have a church event that needs to be publicized in the church bulletin, newsletter, etc., please fill out the form located at <http://winppc.org/publicity-request/>.

✠ WORSHIP MATTERS ✠

ANTHEM TEXT—NIGHT OF SILENCE

Cold are the people, winter of life, we tremble in shadows this cold endless night, Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping, Flowers that will echo the sunrise, Fire of hope is our only warmth, Weary, it's flame will be dying soon. Voice in the distance, call in the night, On wind you enfold us, you speak of the light, Gentle on the ear you whisper softly, Rumors of a dawn so embracing, Breathless love awaits darkened souls, Soon will we know of the morning. Spirit among us, shine like the star, Your light that guides shepherds and kings from afar, Shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely, Rising in the warmth of your Son's love, Star unknowing of night and day, Spirit we wait for your loving Son.

MUSIC

Our CCLI License number is 11184426; OneLicense.net number is 725233; Our CVLI License number is 505405959.

WORSHIP AIDS

Assistive hearing devices are available from an audio/visual technician at the rear of the sanctuary.

The Session		
2023	2024	2025
Syd Davis	Mike Galyean	Theresa Coker
Fred Kittinger	John Gehrig	Mary Ferguson
Malcolm MacDiarmid	Jayne Leach	Cathy House
Jim McKinney	Audrey Santiago	Glenn Riccio
Dawn Sumrall	Sara Van Arsdell	Ron Thompson

The Diaconate		
2024	2024	2025
Ron Ellman	Lisa Dreasher	Meg Baldwin
Betty Johnston	Jerry Fitzgerald	Anna Caparis
Sevilla Morse	Nancy Galyean	Lynne McKnight
Cynthia Nants	Andy Riccio	Debbie Pauzar
Jyme Smith		Deborah Roberts

Missions Supported by WPPC
Audrey Santiago, <i>Transitions Orphan Assistance Foundation</i> , Ukraine
Dr. Robert Gamble, <i>This Child Here</i> , Ukraine
Dennis & Susan Walters, <i>SIL</i> , Asia
Steve & Sonia Dettweiler, <i>Wycliffe</i> , Nigeria
Dr. Anne Hallum, <i>A.I.R. (Alliance for Reforestation)</i> , 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
The Rev. Dr. James A. Capps, Sr Adult Min Coordinator	Cindy Mitchum, Executive Assistant
Justin Chase, Director of Music	Barbara Hordern, Administrative Assistant
Penny Walsh, Organist	La'Shai Huff-Bichet, Children's Ministry Coordinator
Sandra Shafer, Pianist	Wendy Stafford, Health Care Coordinator
Scott Beck, Director of Handbells	Nicole Fye, Director of Preschool Programs
	Adam Davis, Sexton



Winter Park
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 24, 2023
7:00PM

