

Candlelight Service



*Falls Village
Congregational
Church*

The Falls Village Congregational Church
December 24, 2022 7:30 p.m

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
The Rev. Dr. Richard W. Reifsnyder

Greeting and Welcome

Ringing of the Church Bell

Prelude -*Now the Heavens Start to Whisper* - arr. T. Keesecker

Call to Worship:

We gather in the darkness of evening to celebrate the newborn Light.

With family and friends we worship and adore the Christ-child.

With Mary we will ponder these things in our hearts.

With Joseph we will give thanks to the Lord for God's steadfast love.

Lift up your hearts in thanksgiving, for a child, the Child, has been born!

We gather to worship him and welcome his peaceful kingdom.

His name will be blessed among all the earth;

His reign shall have no end!

Come, our wait is finished! Let us worship the newborn King!

***Hymn #150** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Opening Prayer (unison)

O God of love, you have brought us together tonight and blessed us with your very self. Open our eyes to the light of Christ which glows in the darkness of a world engulfed in confusion, pain and loss, a world separated from you. Speak to us now that we may hear the good news of your salvation. Bring us into the wonder of your presence. Fill us with that light and empower us to carry it out with us into our lives. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Musical meditation - *The Holly and the Ivy* - arr. P. Stone

Lighting of The Christ Candle

Maria and Larry Bulson

The Christmas Story according to Luke

Luke 2:1-7 Mary Atwood

Carol 163 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly," v. 1
Luke 2:8-20 Tracy Atwood
Carol 153 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" v. 1

A Christmas Meditation "Story Book Christmas"

The Offertory - *Gesu Bambino* - P. A. Yon

A Christmas Prayer

The Spreading of Christ's Light

(While "Away in the Manger" is being played quietly, create a circle around the sanctuary, keeping socially distanced. The light will then be spread around the circle. When every one's candle is lit, we'll sing vv. 1-3 of Carol 145 "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.

***Benediction**

*Please stand if you are able

Thank you to our music director Liz Allyn, for leading us throughout the year.

Our candles have been lit this evening with the flame of the Peace Light of Bethlehem, where Jesus was born. The Peace light is a Boy Scout project and this year marks the tenth year we have had it for Christmas Eve, thanks to Sandy Rhoades, a Boy Scout leader in our NW corner.

~A Blessed Christmas to All of You ~

150 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

no more may die;

join the tri-umph of the skies; with the an- gel - ic
hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty, pleased in flesh with
born that we no more may die, born to' raise us

born to raise us from the earth to sec - ond birth.

host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing to the new-born King.

Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Each week during Advent we have been lighting the candles on our wreath

(Light 1st candle) We light the 1st candle and speak of hope - because God keeps his promises to us.

(Light 2nd candle) We light the 2nd candle and promise to work for peace - because Jesus is the 'Prince of Peace.'

(Light 3rd candle) We light the 3rd candle and celebrate joy because the Holy Spirit fills us with the joyous presence of Christ.

(Light 4th candle) We light the 4th candle to show love because Jesus gave himself for us and led us to know the forgiveness of God.

(Light Christ candle) Tonight we light the Christ candle, and remember that Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."

Hear these words from Isaiah 9

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light..for a child has been born, a son is given to us. Authority rests upon his shoulders and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Hymn #143, v. 1 – Joy to the World

Prayer – Lord, you come as a tiny, fragile baby, yet we know that you are God, and you are with us. May this candle remind us that you are the light of the world and that if we follow you, we will never walk in darkness, but will have the true light of life. Amen.

LUKE 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2. Joy to the world, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 songs em - ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness,

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

And heaven and na - ture sing, and
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 And won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

G D G G/B C D7 G

1. In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2. Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new,

D7 G D7 G G/B C D7 G

ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing, Christ the babe is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry— tid - ings of a gos - pel true.

C Am D Bm Em Am Dsus D

Swift - ly wing - ing an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing;
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:

G Am D7 Em Bm G/B C G/D D7 G

Christ the babe is Lord of all, Christ the babe is Lord of all!
Christ the babe was born for you, Christ the babe was born for you!

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace - ful wings un - furled,
3. And you be - neath life's crush - ing load whose forms are bend - ing low,
4. For lo, the days are has - tening on, by proph - et seen of old,

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
and still their heav - en - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;
who toil a - long the climb - ing way, with pain - ful steps and slow,
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told;

"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all gra - cious King."
a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hover - ing wing,
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,

The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sound the bless - ed an - gels sing.
O rest be - side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing!
and the whole world send back the song which now the an - gels sing.