

The  
*true light*  
which enlightens everyone



**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
At South Presbyterian Church  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
December 24, 2022 – 7 pm

**GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY**

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We are delighted that this Christmas Eve finds you at worship with this congregation.  
Our liturgy calls for engagement and participation in the praises of God.

Please note that **phrases in bold** are spoken by the congregation.

At this symbol \* worshipers rise in body or in spirit as able.

Face coverings are not mandatory but we encourage their use.

As we focus our thoughts on the presence of God among us, we listen to the Preludes  
and silently meditate on the prayer for Christmas Eve:

*Christ, our Lord, whom humble shepherds worshiped at a manger,  
you are holy and most high, merciful and mighty.*

*With Mary and Joseph, teach us to treasure in our hearts the birth of Jesus,  
and with shepherds and angels, lead us to praise his holy name, not only this night,  
but throughout the year in the church that you have birthed.*

*Startle us to wakefulness, that we may rejoice in your new and glorious dawn,  
but then work with your Spirit to mend this suffering world. Amen.*

ORGAN PRELUDE

*Joy to the World*

Arr. Virgil Fox (1912-1980)  
Phillip Lamb, Organist

CHORAL PRELUDE

*Sussex Carol*

Trad. English, Arr. Stephen Walters

South Church Choir

(Lyrics can be found in the hymnal #112)

**OUR APPROACH TO GOD**

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GREETING AND POURING OF THE WATER

Rev. Osy Nüesch

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Behold, I give you good tidings of great joy:

Christ the Lord is born tonight.

**Christ, our Lord, was born tonight.**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**The light of life has shone on us.**

Break forth together in singing, for the Lord has comforted his people,  
the Lord has redeemed all his creatures.

**We are God's people, God's new creation, redeemed by God incarnated in Jesus Christ.**

Let the earth rejoice and let every person celebrate the salvation of our God.  
**Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth, peace and good will among all!**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

GtG #113

CALL TO CONFESSION

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God who inhabits eternity  
but dwells with those who are of a humble and contrite Spirit:  
in your holy presence we dare confess our sins  
because of the Christ who came to save us from our sin.

**We confess that we have been afraid of your Spirit's presence;**

We hesitate to allow you fully into our lives,  
afraid that you might ask more than we are willing to give.

**We have been blind to your coming in the suffering of the hungry, the exiled,  
the destitute, the marginalized, the refugee, the sick, and the imprisoned.**

In your great mercy, O Lord, forgive us.

**Revitalize our faith this night, rekindle our hope, and renew our love for you,  
for your Church, and for the world you came to redeem.**

Lift our vision to your realm

that we may be ready to recognize your Spirit's work around us  
preparing us, and the world, for Christ's return.

**Until then, O Lord, lead us in the new life you offer,**

**that we may follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION

KYRIE

*For the Troubles and the Sufferings*

GtG #764

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news:....

And God's people joyfully respond:

**Alleluia! Amen!**

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

(Tune GtG #113)

**Gloria, In Excelsis Deo!**

**Gloria, In Excelsis Deo!**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

(During this element of worship, please refrain from walking around or touching,  
but feel free to turn around and offer a wave, smile, nod, bow, virtual embrace  
or any other visual sign that conveys the notion of peace)

# HEARING OF THE WORD

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## UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Move among us by the power of your Spirit, mighty and loving God,  
that in the hearing of your Word,  
we may welcome the wonder and joy of the Living Word  
always ready to make his home in our hearts. Amen.**

## THE PROMISED REIGN

*Isaiah 9:2-7*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.  
For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onwards and for evermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

## CAROL

*Still, Still, Still*

GtG #124

## THE BIRTH IN BETHLEHEM

*Luke 2:1-14*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus  
that all the world should be registered.  
This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.  
All went to their own towns to be registered.  
Joseph 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.  
He went to be registered with Mary,  
to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.  
While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.  
And 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.

## ANTHEM

*Sweet Little Jesus Boy*

Robert MacGimsey

Tara Henderson LaStella, Soloist

## THE HERALDED SAVIOR

*Luke 2:8-14*

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields,  
keeping watch over their flock by night.  
Then an angel of the Lord stood before them,  
and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see —  
I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:  
to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.  
This will be a sign for you:  
you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.'  
And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,  
praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'

ANTHEM

*O Holy Night*

Placide Cappeau, Adolphe Adam

Stephanie Quirk, soloist

Trans. John Sullivan Dwight

THE FIRST TRIBUTES

*Luke 2:15-20*

When 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.'  
So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph,  
and the child lying in the manger.  
When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;  
and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.  
But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.  
The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen,  
as it had been told them.

ANTHEM

*Before the Marvel of This Night* Jaroslav J. Vayda, Carl Schalk

South Church Choir

(Lyrics can be found in the Hymnal #125)

THE BLESSED HOPE

*Titus 2:11-14*

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,  
training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions,  
and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly,  
while we wait for the blessed hope  
and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.  
He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity  
and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

THE CHRISTMAS HOMILY

Rev. Osy Nüesch

SHARING OF THE LIGHT

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*(Please put your coats on before you receive the light from the Christ candle,  
which the ushers will bring to you.*

*Remember to keep the lit candle straight while tilting the candle to be lit.*

*We will keep the candles lit as we recess during the Postlude)*

PRAYER IN THE DARK

ANTHEM

*Silent Night* (First Stanza)

Joseph Mohr, Franz X. Gruber

Riley Quirk, Soloist

## CAROLS

**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.**

*(please raise your candle high during the singing of the last stanza  
of Silent Night and for the singing of Joy to the World)*

**Silent night, holy night! Wonderous star, lend thy light!  
With the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King!  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.**

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

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy.**

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

## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*RECESSIONAL POSTLUDE

*In Dulci Jubilo, BWV 729*

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)  
Phillip Lamb, Organist

