

### Call to Confession and Prayer

Emma MacNiven

Leader: Incarnate God, your Spirit became human in the birth of a baby so long ago, but you did not stop with Jesus, you continue to live in each of us as your children. Hear our prayer:

**Forgive us, Holy One, for not living as our true selves, as bearers of your word and light. Not only have we failed to live as Light in the world, we have failed to acknowledge that same Light in others. We do not heed your words to seek justice, to care for the widow and the orphan, to listen to the voices of the marginalized. We live as if Jesus has come and gone, not as if his Spirit; your Spirit is still with us today. We act as though it is not possible to truly live the way Jesus lived, but God deep down we know that your radical Spirit is still breathing within us. Give us courage, oh God, forgive us and renew us, renew us this night as we celebrate your human birth in Jesus Christ and in us through baptism. Hear now our silent prayers of return...**

### Assurance of Pardon

Emma MacNiven

Leader: Scripture tells us that; "God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

**People: Thanks be to God, for Jesus the Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, loved as his own by Joseph, praised by the shepherds and protected by the dreams of the wisemen. May we too, birth, love, praise and protect him still today, Amen.**

### HEARING IN FAITH

#### Anthem

Mary, Did You Know?

MARK LOWRY

Lucas McC Carson, soloist

#### Scripture Reading

John 1:1-5, 14

Toby Fletcher

#### Reflections on Incarnation

Nick Clark and Annie Weible

#### \*Hymn 53

What Child is This

GREENSLEEVES

#### Call to Prayer

Gabe Weible

Tonight we remember the story of Jesus birth. While this is most likely not the first time we have heard and celebrated this story, may it be received with a new sense of purpose tonight. As we reflect on the incarnation of God's Spirit taking on flesh in the Christ, might we come to a deeper

recognition of that same Spirit in each of us, calling us to be Christ in our world today.

Please join us in this Christmas Prayer, printed on your bulletin insert, with the refrain "**Let us be Christ in the world.**"

**Christmas Prayer** (*Please see Insert*)

### RESPONDING IN JOY

#### Invitation to Offering

Ethan Willis

With all these hopes planted more deeply in our hearts, let us continue our worship with the offering of our tithes and gifts.

*Ushers: Katie Clark, Nick Clark, Lucas McC Carson, Emma MacNiven.*

#### Offertory

God is With Us

Annie Weible and Nick Metry

#### Unison Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

Ethan Willis

Thank you, God of love, for the promise of this season. We are grateful for the generosity aroused in us by Christ's coming into the world. May these gifts represent a new spirit of joyous sharing among us, for the sake of all your children everywhere. Amen.

#### Lighting of the Christ Candle

Lucas McC Carson

Leader: Tonight is the night for which we have been waiting. The Advent wreath is completed with the Christ candle in the center.

**People: "For unto us a child is given, unto us a Savior is born and the order of the world will be upon his shoulders."**

Leader: Let us pray ...

*Dear God, who comes to us in Jesus, on this night as we celebrate his birth, let the power of Christ come into our hearts that we might find you within us, too. Amen.*

### Sacrament of Communion

Invitation and Prayer

Words of Institution

Celebration by Intinction

*Elders: Nick Clark, Annie Weible, Alison Clark, Madison Bates*

Gesu Bambino

Matt Killion, Organist / James Bates, Trumpet

## SENDING IN PEACE

\*Hymn 60

Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

### **\*SPREADING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

*As the second verse of Silent Night begins, the youth will begin lighting your candles. PLEASE TIP THE UNLIT candle to the lit candle.*

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.

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**Extinguishing the Candles**

**Ring of the Bell**

**Postlude**

Joy to the World!

James Bates, Trumpet

G. F. HANDEL

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**\* Please stand, if comfortably able to do so.**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



## **Christmas Eve Worship Service**

December 24, 2018 / 5:30 p.m.

Pewee Valley Presbyterian Church



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### GATHERING IN HOPE

**Ring of the Bell and Words of Welcome**

**Opening Music**

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

CAROL

Nick Clark, Saxophone

Matt Killion, Piano

**Procession and Placement of the Christ Candle (unlit)**

**\*Call to Worship** (adapted from John 1)

Oscar Kingsley

Leader: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

**People: Today we stand and worship as the Word, for God is with us.**

Leader: All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

**People: Today we too bring forth life; today we are the light.**

**ALL: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.**

\*Hymn 44

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS