

Welcome to Philadelphia UMC

December 24, 2022

Christmas Eve

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (Adptd. From Latin antiphon, Hodie Christus natus est)

L: On this night, Christ is born!

P: Now the Savior has appeared!

L: On this night, the heavenly chorus resounds!

P: All creation rejoices! All creation sings!

L: On this night, the church throughout the world joins their cry:

P: Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia!

CANDLE LIGHTING "CHRIST" Derrick, Jessica and Gracen Barrentine

Let us light these candles and complete this circle as we rejoice in the light that shines in the darkness and declare with joy and with hope. Rejoice a Savior is born. Joy to the world, the Lord has come! Hallelujah.

*HYMN "O Come All Ye Faithful" UMH #234

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our Rock and Redeemer. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:1-20

SERMON "Welcome Home" Rev. Kathy Pryor

HOLY COMMUNION

CONFESSION

Gracious God, we would like to be among those who saw the coming coming of the Christ Child, those who dropped all that they were doing and traveled to worship the coming of God's love into the world. We would like to be those who cared for God in infant vulnerability; who tickled and cuddled and comforted the growing Child, that he might know love and safety.

And yet, merciful God, we must recognize all the times we are more like Herod. Whenever we, in our actions or in our inactions, find our own need for control more compelling than the needs of others for health and safety. Whenever we cling to the security of our privilege, rather than standing up for the rights of the oppressed. Whenever we are complicit in the harming of innocents for the sake of profit, or power, or because we fear to know, and to change, the injustices of this world. Loving God, we confess our sins against you and one another, and pray that you will fill us with your light, that we may live our lives as true

disciples in your name, without counting the cost. In the name of Christ the one who showed us the way, we pray. Amen.

PARDON

L: God's light is present in this world. Present in the Christ Child, born to lead us out of darkness, present in the star, in all that guides us.

P: God's light is the light of the world and the darkness did not overcome it. God's grace is in the world, and our missteps will not overcome it. We are loved, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

GIVING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

THE RECEIVING AND PASSING OF LIGHT

(Candles lit while singing the hymn)

*HYMN "Silent Night" UMH #239

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE POSTLUDE

**Those who are able, please stand.*



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Reminders:

Masks are available for anyone while inside the church buildings. If anyone present at in-person worship should test positive for COVID 19 please notify pastor immediately. If anyone has been exposed to someone who has tested positive to COVID 19; if someone feels like they have COVID 19 symptoms; if someone is awaiting test results for COVID 19; the individual and their immediate family should not attend in person worship or other church activities for 5 days until they receive a negative COVID 19 test.

Luke 2: 1-20

“The Birth of Jesus”

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while^[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.