



*Christmas Eve Service*  
*December 24, 2017 - 6:00 P.M.*



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Rev. Susan Bennett, Pastor  
Dorothy Clark, Organist  
Tom Francis, Custodian Emeritus

Ward Gailey, Music Director  
Linda Hodges, Office Manager  
Nursery Attendant: Suzie Wharton



*Stockbridge Presbyterian Church*  
*Stockbridge, GA*



# Stockbridge Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve  
December 24, 2017  
6:00 pm  
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Please silence and refrain from using all electronic devices.

OPENING VOLUNTARY “Silent Night” Franz Gruber, arr. Callahan

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE John and Carol Abbott

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 96)

Leader: O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**All: Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.**

Leader: Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

**All: Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!**

Leader: Worship the Lord in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.

**All: Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

Leader: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it.

**All: Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord; for he is coming!**

**All: Hallelujah! Let us worship God!**

\*HYMN #180 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

\*CHRISTMAS PRAYER (unison)

**Amazing God, open our hearts and minds so that we can hear once again the angels’ song, and know that Christ is born. Touch the world with joy this holy night, and fill us with peace and wonder. You have blessed us with the miracle of the birth of the Christ child, our Savior and Lord, and we are grateful. Amen.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE John Dunn

\*HYMN #203 “Away In a Manger”

FIRST READING Isaiah 9:2-7 Page 600, Pew Bible

Leader: The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

\*HYMN # 188 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

SECOND READING Luke 2:1-20

Page 54, Pew Bible

Leader: The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

MEDITATION “The Old, Old Story” Rev. Susan Bennett

ANTHEM “’Twas in the Moon of Wintertime” Indian Christmas Carol, 1642

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Those who are able may come forward up the center aisle, row by row, take a piece of bread, and then dip it in the cup. Return to your seats by the outside aisles. Those unable to come forward will be served at their seats. If you would like to respond when the elder offers you the bread, say “Amen.” If you would like to respond when the elder offers you the cup, say “Praise God.”

COMMUNION PRAYER

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

\*CAROL OF SENDING #186, verses 1-3 “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.**

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CLOSING VOLUNTARY “Unto Us a Boy is Born” German Carol, arr. Haan