

All: "I am the light of the world."
One: So, this night, the prophecy is fulfilled:
All: "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."
One: As we share the light, we joyfully testify to the world:
All: "The light shines in darkness, and the darkness can never overcome it."

A leader will spread the light from the Christ candle down the center aisle. Please dip the unlighted candle to the lighted one, as we share the light of Christ.

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE "Silent Night with Night of Silence" Kantor/Ferguson

**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

*POSTLUDE "Angels from the Realm of Glory"

Henry T. Smart

CS CS CS

Rev. Betsy Turner, Interim Pastor
 Tom Francis, Custodian Emeritus
 Linda Hodges, Office Manager

Ward Gailey, Music Director
 Gena Ridgeway, Accompanist
 Nursery Attendant: Suzie Wharton & Allie Dunn

*Christmas Eve Service
 December 24, 2019 - 6:00 P.M.*



*Stockbridge Presbyterian Church
 Stockbridge, Georgia*



Stockbridge Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2019
6:00 p.m.

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Please silence and refrain from using all electronic devices.
Tonight, we will not pass the offering plates, but they are available in the front and back of the sanctuary.

PRELUDE "The Angels and the Shepherds" Bohemian Carol Sanctuary Choir

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE Pastor Nominating Committee

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Ann Weems "The Decree")

One: And in these days, a decree goes out to all the world,

All: for these are taxing times.

One: We are all called again to go to Bethlehem,

All: no matter the state of our health and our world.

One: We come, obedient and faithful, for we have heard the message,

All: we have dreamed the dream: that God will dwell among us.

One: We come, expectant with joy, pregnant with anticipation,

All: for God has done great things for us.

One: We come searching for a sign.

All: Bearing gifts, we come.

One: We come, called from the silent hillsides of our hearts, startled and frightened by the magnitude of light,

All: we huddle together towards Bethlehem

One: We come, one by one,

All: and yet, as one, dancing into the promise.

*HYMN #180 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

*CHRISTMAS PRAYER (unison)

Eternal God, from the tabernacle of heaven to the poverty of a stable, your radiant light shines forth in a tiny baby wrapped in rags. Such humble love astounds us. In Jesus you have become one with us that we might become one with you. Open our hearts to joyfully receive his love that he may be born in us, and we in him, through Christ the Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Betsy Turner

*HYMN #183 "Once in Royal David's City"

FIRST READING Isaiah 9:2-7
One: The Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Page 600, Pew Bible

ANTHEM "Jazz Gloria" Natalie Sleeth

Sanctuary Choir

SECOND READING Luke 2:1-20
One: The Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Page 54, Pew Bible

MEDITATION "Let Us Go Now to Bethlehem"

Rev. Betsy Turner

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts!

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING, ENDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

SERVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Tonight, we will share communion by intinction. Those who are able may come up the center aisle, receive a piece of bread, (or gluten-free wafer) and dip it in the cup of juice. If you wish to be served where you are, please raise your hand and someone will serve you.

PRAYER

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

One: The prophet calls,

All: "Arise, shine, for your light has come."

One: And the psalmist sings in reply,

All: "The Lord is my light and salvation."

One: Jesus himself declares,