

# BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

DECEMBER 24, 2023, 7:00 pm

## Christmas Eve

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We are a community that welcomes all.  
We are committed to experiencing beautiful worship,  
nurturing lifelong growth,  
and pursuing justice and love in the world.

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Pastor - Rev. Sarah Wiles  
Director of Music & Organist - Alice Brooks Sanders  
Director of Children & Youth Ministries - Susan Hunter  
Coordinator of Church Life - Sarah Windes  
Office Manager - Rhonda Waller  
Parish Associate - Rev. Emily Rhodes Hunter

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❖ Please rise in body or in spirit. We invite you to join in with the words in **bold**.

## Music for Meditation

**Prelude:** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

9<sup>th</sup> century chant

Liturgical movement by Anna Bach, Beth Mattson & Rachel Parson

## Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

**Song of Advent:** "He Came Down"

HE CAME DOWN

He came down that we may have hope; (*sing 3 times*)  
hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have peace...

He came down that we may have joy...

He came down that we may have love...

## Welcome and Passing of the Peace

Rev. Sarah Wiles

❖ **Carol 133:** "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ADESTE FIDELES

(*Congregation sings vv. 1,3-4; choir sings v. 2*)

O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant;  
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold him,  
born the King of angels!  
O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ, the Lord!

True God from true God,  
Light from light eternal,  
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
very God, begotten, not created!  
O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels;  
sing in exultation;  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all  
glory in the highest!  
O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ, the Lord!

*Scroll down for more . . .*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing!  
O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ, the Lord!

### Christmas Reflection

**Music for Reflection:** "Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head"

Kentucky folk carol,  
set by Vincent Persichetti

Linda King and Alice Sanders, piano duet

**The Vision:** Isaiah 9:2, 6; 11:6-9

Rev. Page Foster

The people walking in darkness  
are seeing a brilliant light –  
upon those who dwell in a land of deep shadows  
light is shining!

**For a child is born to us,  
an heir is given us,  
upon whose shoulders  
dominion will rest.**

This One shall be called  
**Wonderful Counselor,  
the Strength of God,  
Eternal Protector,  
Champion of Peace.**

Then the wolf will dwell with the lamb,  
and the leopard will lie down with the young goat;  
the calf and the lion cub will graze together,  
and a little child will lead them.

The cow will feed with the bear;  
their young will lie down together.  
The lion will eat hay like the ox.  
The baby will play next to the den of the cobra,  
and the toddler will dance over the viper's nest.

**There will be no harm, no destruction  
anywhere on God's holy mountain;  
for as water fills the sea,  
so the land will be filled with knowledge of God.**

**Choral Anthem:** "Before the Marvel of This Night"

MARVEL  
Hymn 125

**The Promise:** Luke 1:26-38, 46-55, selected verses

CMP Jan McGilliard

❖ **Hymn 100:** "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

**The Birth:** Luke 2:1-20

Rev. Dave Snyder

**Choral Anthem:** "'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime"

UNE JEUNE PUCELLE  
Hymn 142

### Call to Offering

**Offertory:** "Away in a Manger: Three Tunes"

Judy McCord, handbells

### Prayers of the People

**Song of Prayer (v. 1):** "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

ST. LOUIS

O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

### Prayer Response

O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us we pray.

**Song of Prayer (v. 4):** "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

ST. LOUIS

O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in;  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us; abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel!

**Christmas Eve Litany:** *First Coming* by Madeleine L'Engle

He did not wait 'til the world was ready,  
'til people and nations were all at peace.

**He came when the heavens were unsteady  
and prisoners cried out for release.**

He did not wait for the perfect time.

**He came when the need was deep and great.  
He dined with sinners in all their grime  
turned water into wine.**

*Scroll down for more . . .*

He did not wait 'til hearts were pure.

**In joy he came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.  
To a world like ours, of anguished shame  
he came, and his Light would not go out.**

He came to a world which did not mesh,  
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.

**In the mystery of the word made flesh  
the maker of the stars was born.**

We cannot wait 'til the world is sane  
to raise our songs with joyful voice,

**for to share our grief and to touch our pain  
he came with love; rejoice! rejoice!**

### **Lighting the Christ Candle**

#### **❖ Passing the Light of Christ**

*We pass the light of Christ from the Christ candle as we sing "Silent Night." Please tip unlit candles toward lit candles. Children may twist the base of flameless candles to light them.*

#### **❖ Carol 122: "Silent Night, Holy Night!"**

STILLE NACHT

**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."**

#### **❖ Benediction**

#### **❖ Postlude: "In dulci jubilo"**

J.S. Bach



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Ushers: Ben Corl, Helen Corl, Jonathan Anderson & Angela Anderson.

Citations: Scripture readings taken from the Common English Bible and The Inclusive Bible.

Art: *Contours of Mary's Dream* by Lauren Wright Pittman, [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org).

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Sunday Worship, New Year's Eve:** Join us next Sunday for worship at 10:30 am. There is no childcare. All children are welcome in worship, especially the squirmy, noisy ones.

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**New weekly adult education class:** Bread of Life, Finding Community in the Gospel of John, beginning Sunday, Jan. 7, 9:00am, WM. Led by Anna Bach, Linda King, and Pastors Emily and Sarah. In this class, we will use *Encounters with Jesus: Studies in the Gospel of John* by Frances Taylor Gench as our guide to reflecting on the scripture passage we will hear later that morning in worship. There will be copies available at church for \$15. As always, if cost is a barrier, please take one as a gift. You do not need to read the book to participate in the class. You're welcome just as you are. If you're hungry--for meaning, connection, and transformation--join us in conversation and worship this winter and spring.

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