

BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

DECEMBER 24, 2023, 10:30 am

Fourth Sunday of Advent
and Christmas Eve



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.

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

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

✧ GATHERING AROUND THE WORD ✧

Prelude: “Wexford Carol”

set by Mark Hayes

Welcome and Passing of the Peace

Rev. Sarah Wiles

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

Tzipora Roberts

Song of Advent: “He Came Down”

HE CAME DOWN

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

Sharing Faith with Children

(Children of all ages are invited to come forward for a short conversation with Pastor Sarah. Parents are welcome to accompany their children.)

❖ **Call to Worship**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

This is the day the Lord has made. **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

How does a weary world hold onto hope,
practice peace, spread joy, or know love?

How does a weary world shine a light in the night?

**We do all these things with God’s help.
For today, a child is born in Bethlehem.**

Today, Christ draws near.

Today, we are not alone.

**God is near. Love has drawn close. Rejoice!
For God loves this weary world.**

❖ **Carol 133 (vv. 1, 3-4):** “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ADESTE FIDELES

**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!**

**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 PAGEANT ✦

Introduction

A Journey

Carol 121 (vv. 1-2): "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 street shineth
the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth.

Born in a Manger

Carol 114: "Away in a Manger"

MUELLER

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed.
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

The Beasts are Amazed

Shepherds Hear the Angels Sing

Carol 113: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

(In English, gloria in excelsis Deo means glory to God in the highest.)

Wise People Come from Far Away

Carol 151: "We Three Kings of Orient Are"

KINGS OF ORIENT

We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Sounds through the earth and skies. (Refrain)

Conclusion

❖ **Carol 134 (vv. 1-2,4): "Joy to the World"**

ANTIOCH

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Prayers of the People

Call to Offering

Offertory: "The Friendly Beasts"

12th century French carol
set by Larry Shackley

(Listen for the donkey, cow, sheep, and dove.)

⌘ BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD ⌘

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 (vv. 1,3): "Silent 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! 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.

❖ Benediction

❖ Postlude: Festive Carol Medley

Judy McCord, handbells



Ushers: Greg, Anne, and Loy Campbell, and Jack Call. Lead Angel: Sonja Anderson. Citations: Call to Worship adapted from Rev. Sarah Speed, sanctifiedart.org. Art: *Contours of Mary's Dream* by Lauren Wright Pittman, sanctifiedart.org. Music: used with permission under One License #A-701634. All rights reserved.

Christmas Eve Service Tonight: You are welcome to join us tonight at 7 o'clock for our service of Lessons and Carols to include candlelight. There is no childcare. All children are welcome in worship, especially the squirmy, noisy ones.



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.

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.

