

LATE NIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Opequon Presbyterian Church, Winchester, Virginia

December 24, 2017

11:00 pm

†Please stand if able.

All read bold print.

GATHER

PRELUDE *In a Place of Miracles*..... Alan Menken

WELCOME

GATHERING SONGS For Unto Us/Open the Eyes
Joy to the World/Unspeakable Joy

CCLI #1622560

**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 world, the Savior reigns
That 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
Joy, unspeakable joy
An overflowing well
No tongue can tell
Joy, unspeakable joy
Rises in my soul, never let's me go
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**

**Joy, unspeakable joy
An overflowing well
No tongue can tell
Joy, unspeakable joy
Rises in my soul, never let's me go**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT AND CHRIST CANDLES

..... Debbie, Bill & Kaley Bender, Erin & Nick Deptula

CALL TO WORSHIP

Tonight we celebrate the one moment, the one birth, and the one life that forever changed the world!

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Because you came to us, we have experienced the ultimate hope to combat even the darkest moments.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Because you came to us, we have seen the fullness of love to the highest degree.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Because you came to us, we have seen the face of peace in its purest form.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Tonight, we celebrate your birth that unleashes hope, peace, joy, and love, into the world from now until the day of your return.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

†CAROL NO. 41 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

†CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER

Glorious God, on this Christmas Eve, we sing beloved carols of Bethlehem, of shepherds and angels, of Mary and Joseph, and the infant Jesus, our Savior. Is there yet a new song we can sing to you? A song to be learned from the heavens and the earth: where the roar of the sea, the exultation of the fields, and the joy of the trees are already raised in a chorus of glad rejoicing, ready to welcome you. Even if no ear may hear your coming, help us hear the music of creation. Then, with the whole world, we will sing of your salvation, declare your glory, and in a crescendo of praise, bless your name: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace! Amen.

†PASSING OF THE PEACE (Please share this prayer with those next to you)
May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

ENGAGE

ANTHEM *Mary, Did You Know?*

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 9:2-7 Pew Bible p. 638

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Luke 2:1-20 Pew Bible p. 58

†CAROL *Hark the Herald/King of Heaven*

CCLI #1622560

**Hark the herald angels sing glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled;
joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Hark the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King.**

**Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace. Hail the Son of righteousness;
light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings;
mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die;
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King.**

**King of heaven, come down; King of heaven, come now;
let your glory reign, shining like the day, King of heaven, come;
King of heaven, rise up, who can stand against us;
You are strong to save, in your mighty name, King of heaven, come.**

**Christ, by highest Heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold Him come, offspring of a virgin's womb;
mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die;
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King.**

**King of heaven, come down; King of heaven, come now;
let your glory reign, shine like the day, King of heaven, come.**

SERMON..... "Down to Earth"
Pastor David R. Witt

RESPOND

†CAROL NO. 44 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

OFFERING OF GIFTS

OFFERTORY *Carol of the Bells*..... arr. Ben Bram

†CAROL NO. 23 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

GO FORTH

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

During the song, the ushers will come forward, light their candles, and proceed down the aisles, lighting the candle of the first person in each pew. You are asked to pass the light on to the person on your right or left. *Please only tilt the unlit candles.*

†CAROL *Silent Night! Holy Night!*
CCLI #1622560

**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.**

†CHARGE AND BLESSING

†CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;

Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

†POSTLUDE

COME AND WORSHIP, COME AND WORSHIP, WORSHIP CHRIST THE NEWBORN KING!

We joyously welcome you to worship tonight as we together celebrate the birth of Jesus. We feel greatly blessed that you are here! Like the shepherds, “let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” (Luke 2:15). Merry Christmas to you and your family!

COMMUNION TODAY IS BY INTINCTION

We will come forward to the communion table to receive the sacrament by intinction. Each section of pews should move to the left as directed by the ushers. Gluten-free bread and gluten free grape juice (blue cup) are available in the center section; please see an usher for assistance. Please tear off a piece of bread and then dip it in the cup of grape juice, eating immediately. Return to your seat by the right aisle. Elders serving are: June Malone, Mitch Orndorff, Susanna Shade and Becky Proctor.

TAKE CARE WITH THE CANDLES TONIGHT!

We encourage caution and the utmost care with an open flame in sharing the light of Christ at the conclusion of worship tonight. Please watch that each family member responsibly holds the candle upright so as not to drip wax and keeps the candle away from paper and bulletins at all times. Ushers will be watchful and ready to assist.

PARTICIPANTS IN TONIGHT'S SERVICE

David Witt ----- Pastor
Garrett Jones ----- Pianist
PS 150, Matt Cooper & Sarah Shade, Directors ----- Music
George & Jeanne Schember, Mac McNichols ----- Ushers