

Opequon Presbyterian Church

INFORMATION FOR OUR GUESTS

To get the most out of your visit, may we recommend you familiarize yourself with the following:

- **We encourage you to share requests for prayer.** You may do so by completing the pink form found in the pew rack and placing it in the offering.
- **Trust your children to the care of our dedicated, loving workers!** The nursery rooms are located through the Gathering Area, down the Gallery and through the Dell Room. An usher will be happy to escort you. Our nursery ministry cares for infants and toddlers to age three.
- **Worship Bags are available for children ages 3-kindergarten.** These bags are located in the back of the Sanctuary. Please return the bag and supplies to the basket when you are leaving.
- **Look forward to taking part in a Sunday School class each week.** Sunday School is held at 9:45 am each Sunday. There are classes for all ages and interests.
- **Restrooms and a coat rack** are located off the Gathering Area, just outside the Sanctuary.
- **A water fountain** is located off the Gathering Area.
- **Large-print hymnals, Bibles and bulletins** are available from an usher.
- **Personal hearing assistance devices** are available from an usher if you would like to use one.
- **Transportation can be provided to worship.** Call the church office before 12:00 pm on Friday.

217 Opequon Church Lane, Winchester, VA 22602

540-662-1843 www.opequonchurch.org WIFI: Network ID: opc-guest Password: 25dec!!!

David R. Witt----- Pastor
Tracie Martin----- Parish Associate
Laurie Carver ----- Nursery Supervisor
William Heavner ----- Organist
Susan Homan ----- Director of Music
Patty Klinefelter ----- Faith Community Nurse
Catherine Richard ----- Office Administrator
Robert Sydnor----- Sexton
Carole Witt ----- Director of Christian Education
Rebekah Witt ----- Youth & Young Adult Director



FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Opequon Presbyterian Church, Winchester, Virginia

December 24, 2017

5:00 pm

†Please stand if able.

All read bold print.

GATHER

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

CHRISTMAS CAROL SING

As we gather together, please remain seated, and join in singing the first verse of each of these familiar Christmas Carols:

*The First Nowell
Angels We Have Heard on High
It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
Joy to the World*

WELCOME

GATHERING SONG *Light One Candle: Christ is Coming*

**Light one candle: Christ is coming,
Christ, the hope of the world.**

**Light one candle: Christ is coming,
Christ is coming soon!**

**Light two candles: Christ is coming,
Christ, the peace of the world.**

**Light two candles: Christ is coming,
Christ is coming soon!**

**Light three candles: Christ is coming,
Christ, the joy of the world.**

**Light three candles: Christ is coming,
Christ is coming soon!**

**Light four candles: Christ is coming,
Christ, the love of the world.
Light four candles: Christ is coming,
Christ is coming soon!**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT AND CHRIST CANDLES

.....Vicky, Lance, Adelyn & Aubrey Astorino

CALL TO WORSHIP

With the prophet Isaiah, we proclaim the promise of God:

**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. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful
Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Hear the good news of great joy:

**A Savior is born, who is the Messiah, the Lord. Glory to God in the
highest, and on earth, peace.**

†CAROL NO. 133.....*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

†CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER

**God of hope, peace, joy, and love, this night is so full! For children,
this night is one of excitement and anticipation; for others, this
night is filled with responsibilities and activity. Some are traveling
this night to be with family or friends, while others spend the night
quietly and alone. Be with us in all our varied circumstances and
moods. I pray that I, and all those within my circles of care, will be
especially attentive to the angels' good news: that you have come
to dwell among us in Jesus Christ, full of grace and truth. In this is
our great joy. 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 *Christmas Bells*

BIBLE LESSON & DIALOGUE..... Luke 2:1-20

CONVERSATION WITH THE CHILDREN “The Baby Is Coming!

†CAROL NO. 115 *Away in a Manger*

RESPOND

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

THE LORD’S PRAYER (Hymnal p. 35, we say “debts” and “debtors” in the prayer)

OFFERING OF GIFTS

OFFERTORY *Carol of the Bells*..... arr. Heavner

†CAROL NO. 119 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GO FORTH

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST *We Pass This Flame to You*

Jennie Wright & David Witt

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!*

**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.**

CCLI #1622560

†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!

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
Carole Witt-----Director of Christian Education
William Heavner----- Organist/Pianist
Susan Homan ----- Director of Music
Vicky, Lance, Adelyn & Aubrey Astorino ----- Greeters
Lisa & Bill Frye ----- Hospitality Greeters
Heather & Steve Burton, Marc DesMarais, Andy Homan,
Leslie Tucker, Joel Witt ----- Ushers