

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**  
Opequon Presbyterian Church, Winchester, Virginia

December 24, 2016

11:00 p.m.

†Please stand if able.

All read bold print.

**GATHER**

PRELUDE

WELCOME

GATHERING SONG ..... *Angels We Have Heard on High*

**Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,**

**And the mountains in reply Echoing their joyous strains.**

Refrain **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? (Refrain)**

**Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. (Refrain 2x)**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT AND CHRIST CANDLES

..... Susanna, Mike, Sarah & Matt Shade

## ADVENT PRAYER

O God, our hearts sing with joy and praise because of Jesus. At this happy season, we rejoice that Jesus came among us. By his birth and life, he has shown us that we are your people and that we are greatly loved. Help us to remember Christmas all year long by giving to others the gifts of life: hope, peace, joy, love, kindness and understanding. Amen!

GATHERING SONG ..... *The Advent Candles* (Tune: *Away in a Manger*)

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright;  
A candle of Hope in December's dark night.  
While angels sing blessing from heav'n's starry sky  
Our hearts we prepare now, for Jesus is nigh.

A candle is burning, a candle of Peace;  
A candle to signal that conflict must cease.  
For Jesus is coming to show us the way;  
A message of Peace humbly laid in the hay.

A candle is burning, a candle of Joy;  
A candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.  
Our hearts fill with wonder and eyes light and glow  
As Joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.

A candle is burning, a candle of Love,  
A candle to point us to heaven above.  
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth;  
For Jesus is bringing God's Love to our earth.

**We honor Messiah with Christ-Candle's flame;  
Our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.  
O come, all ye faithful, rejoice on this night  
As God comes among us, the Christian's true Light.**

†CALL TO WORSHIP

On this holiest of nights,  
**We come, joining the shepherds who are stunned by  
wonder.**

On this most silent night,  
**We come, our hopes and dreams joining those of Mary and  
Joseph.**

On this night of carols and candlelight,  
**We come, our glad songs joining with the choirs of angels  
over us.**

(written by Thom Shuman, pastor of Opequon Church, 1987-1990)

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

†CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER

**Living God, on this holy night we gather—to stand with  
shepherds, amazed at your glory; to sing with angels,  
rejoicing in your work; to wait with Joseph, trusting in your  
promise; to sit with Mary, cradling your love. May the good  
news of this night inspire us to tell the world of our great  
joy: for to us is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord. Glory  
and praise to you forever! 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 NO. 50..... *Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow*

SERMON..... "Not to Be Missed!"

Pastor David R. Witt

## RESPOND

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ANTHEM..... *Adore*

OFFERING OF GIFTS

OFFERTORY

†CAROL NO. 31..... *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SOLO ..... *O Holy Night*

# 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!*

**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
- Garrett Jones----- Pianist
- PS 150 ----- Music
- The Veach Family -----Greeters
- George Schember, Mac McNichols ----- Ushers

**CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE—Sunday, December 25**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Annual Service of Lessons and Carols**

Special Children's Conversation, Special Music

Final Four Cents a Meal Offering

**NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE—Sunday, January 1**

**10:00 a.m.**

Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon "Celebrating the Journey"

Communion, Covenant Renewal Service