

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

December 24, 2016

7:30 p.m.

†Please stand if able.

All read bold print.

**GATHER**

PRELUDE *Christmas Carol Medley*..... Arr. Scott and Smith

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT AND CHRIST CANDLES

..... Melissa, Jim, Jack & Natalie Youngblood

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!**

INTROIT ..... *An Antiphonal Noel*

Jessica Eaton, soloist

†CALL TO WORSHIP

We count it in mere hours now. Soon the first pains of labor will be felt.

**Soon the Light will shine in the darkness, soon the baby will be born.**

Soon God will once again break into our lives,

**Coming in a way that is expected yet unusual, challenging our expectations and calling us to see life differently.**

In this time of song and prayer and silence, reawaken in us the awe of Christmas.

**As we hear again the story of faithful parents, divine messengers, and surprising visitors, remind us that we are called to respond to you in unexpected ways.**

And when we leave this place, may we be willing to sing praises and to offer our lives in celebration of this Gift, a Child born for us, a Son given to us, Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Amen!**

†CAROL NO. 133 ..... *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 ..... *What Shall the Children Bring?*  
Jenna Arnoldy & Reagan Newhouse, soloists

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 9:2-7 ..... Pew Bible p. 555

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Luke 2:1-20 ..... Pew Bible p. 832

†CAROL NO. 147 ..... *The First Nowell*

SERMON ..... **“Not to Be Missed!”**  
Pastor David R. Witt

## RESPOND

ANTHEM ..... *Hurry, Shepherds, Run*

OFFERING OF GIFTS

OFFERTORY ..... *Carol* ..... Arr. Whitworth

†CAROL NO. 113 ..... *Angels We Have Heard on High*

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Special Music ..... *All is Well*

Jennie Wright, David Witt, soloists

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayers of Intercession and the Lord's Prayer

(Hymnal p. 35, we say "debts" and "debtors" in the prayer.)

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread & Cup

Communion Music

Communion Prayer

## GO FORTH

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

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!

## **COMMUNION TONIGHT 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: Jeff Klinefelter, Leslie Tucker, Tim Heishman, Carole Witt, Bob Weidele and Robin Owens.

## **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  
Rebekah Witt----- Liturgist  
William Heavner----- Organist/Pianist  
Susan Homan ----- Director of Music  
Karen & Ray Jones----- Greeters  
Annemarie Matthews ----- Hospitality Greeter  
Bill Robinson ----- Lights  
Mike Butler, Andy Homan, Kyle Homan, Nick Sardelis ----- 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