

# Opequon Presbyterian Church Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2018

7:30 pm

†Please stand if able.

All read bold print.

## GATHER

ORGAN MEDITATION ..... *Medley of Christmas Carols*  
William Heavner  
PRELUDE ..... Midwinter Prelude  
Jen Curtis, Garrett Jones  
INTROIT ..... *Christ Is Born This Holy Night*  
WELCOME

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT AND CHRIST CANDLES

..... Carole Fox, Corine Fox, David, Ethan & Will Schwantes

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Dazzling light on a dark night.

**Angelic songs on a silent night.**

Wonderful news!

**Surprising Good News.**

The promised Messiah is born!

**A new Prince of Peace has come.**

Rejoice! For on this star-bright, holy night—

**The angels still sing!**

They bid us seek the holy in the midst of the ordinary.

**They call us to look into the eyes of a child and see God.**

They urge us to sing and dance all the way to Bethlehem.

**Rejoice! For on this star-bright, holy night, the angels still sing.**

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

## †CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER

**God of angels and babies, fill the skies with light and song and fill our hearts with wonder and peace. For on this night, a window to your kingdom opens, and we catch a glimpse of an incredible love descending as a child. O let the angels sing and our hearts be softened. Let our lives be filled anew with hope, peace, and joy. God of shepherds and stars, open us to the miracle of your love**

**entering the world and our lives this holy night. For Christ the Babe is Lord of all, and born for us. 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 ..... *All Glory Be to God on High!*  
Will Schwantes, violin; Jen Curtis, bass clarinet

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

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

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

SERMON ..... "Lord of All, Born for You!"  
Pastor David R. Witt

## RESPOND

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

OFFERING OF GIFTS

OFFERTORY *Offertory on "Noel Nouvelet"* (Medieval French) .....arr. McCabe

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

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

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 ..... *O Holy Night*  
Jen Curtis, Garrett Jones, David Witt, soloist

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. Then, return to your seat by the right aisle. Serving communion tonight are: Susan Ritter, Leslie Tucker, Lance Pearce, Nathan Windle, Robin Owens and Kirsta Weber.

## **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  
Tracie Martin ----- Parish Associate  
William Heavner ----- Organist/Pianist  
Susan Homan ----- Director of Music  
Alan McKay ----- Beadle  
Mitchell Skowbo, Cameron Veach ----- Greeters  
Bill Robinson ----- Lights  
Kristin Blake, Kyle Homan, AnnMarie & James Kelly,  
Nick Sardelis, Joel Witt ----- Ushers

**Christmastide Sunday—December 30<sup>th</sup> —8:30 & 11:00 am**

Annual Service of Lessons & Carols

Special Music, Habitat for Humanity Paint Can Offering

**Epiphany Sunday—January 6<sup>th</sup>—8:30 & 11:00 am**

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

Sermon: "Opening Our Treasure Chests"

Communion, CCAP