

# CATONSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## *Order of Worship*

Christmas Eve – Nativity of the Lord

December 24, 2020

### **Prelude**

“Away in A Manger”

Handchime Choir

Carol-Prelude on *Greensleeves*

Searle Wright (1918-2004)

### **Call to Worship**

The grace of God has appeared,  
bringing salvation to all.

*Glory to God in the highest!*

For a child has been born for us,  
a Son has been given to us.

*Glory to God in the highest!*

To us is born in the city of David a Savior,  
the Messiah, the Lord.

*Glory to God in the highest!*

In him was life and his life is the light of all people.  
Christ’s light still shines in the darkest places  
and darkness shall never overcome it.

### **Lighting of the Christ Candle**

### **Opening Prayer**

Holy One, as you came at night when all was still,  
so enter our lives this night.

Illumine our paths with the light of Christ’s presence,  
that we may clearly see  
the way, the truth, and the life of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God,  
now and forever. Amen.



Hymn 133 – See page 7. “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ADESTE FIDELES

## **Welcome**

Welcome to worship on this Christmas Eve

as we celebrate and give thanks for God's indescribable gift –  
the sending of the Christ, the birth of Jesus, Lord and Savior.  
Prince of Peace.

This is a different kind of Christmas for us this year, bittersweet –  
there are occasions for joy and so much for which to be grateful  
even at the same time there's so much suffering and sadness tonight,  
so many families missing loved ones.

In these challenging times may we find comfort  
and assurance this night in God's presence,  
the good news of God's love born in us and among us,  
the light of Christ that shines all the brighter in dark times.

I would like to thank our choir members who have pre-recorded the music for tonight .

On behalf of the Session, Deacons, Trustees,  
and staff of this congregation we wish you and yours a blessed,  
safe, and merry Christmas.

## **Christmas Joy Offering**

This evening's offering will be given to the  
Christmas Joy Offering of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).  
The offering aids the denomination's racial ethnic schools  
and the Board of Pensions,  
which assists retired ministers and mission workers in need.

In recognition of our commitment to God  
and our gratitude for all God has given to us,  
we present our gifts, our offerings, and our tithes.  
Because God so loved the world, God sent the Son into the world.  
In response to this good news of great joy,  
we offer songs of praise, our offerings, these gifts, our lives.

## **Prayer of Dedication**

O God, we offer our gifts to you to further the promise  
of hope, peace, love, and justice in our community and in our world.  
Empower us, O God, to follow these gifts into the world around us  
so that they, and we, become bearers of your peace,  
love and justice on the earth. Amen.

**Music:** "See, Amid the Winter's Snow"

Arranged by Dan Forrest

**Prayer for Illumination**

We would make room for you this night of all nights, dear Lord:

room in our minds and hearts;

room also in our lives, whether together or apart.

Let your word be born in us anew, so that,

by the power of the Holy Spirit, your splendor shines in us and through us.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**Scripture:** Isaiah 9:2b-7

**Hymn 113 – See pages 8 & 9. “Angels We Have Heard On High”**

GLORIA  
Chancel Choir

**Meditation and Scripture:** Luke 2:1-18

**Hymn 134 – See page 10. “Joy to the World”**

ANTIOCH

**Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer**

Glory to you, O God, for good news of great joy that you give to all people.

Thank you for Jesus Christ, Immanuel, who lived among us and now reigns on high.

Thank you for his light that continues to shine in the places of darkness and shadow.

With the angels, we sing praise to you, celebrating your glory in all the earth,  
in the Son given to us, and in your promised salvation.

Although we are scattered and apart on this Christmas Eve,

your Holy Spirit, O God, gathers us together to be your church in the world.

So hear your church, Holy One, as we pray for your church in every place,

that we may make known to others what has been told to us about Jesus,  
the child born in Bethlehem. O Christ, our light, *hear our prayer.*

We pray for the church...

With Mary, help us to treasure

and ponder the gift that has been given to us,  
a gift of good news and great joy for all.

O Christ, our light, *hear our prayer.*

We pray for the world...

With the prophets, help us to proclaim the promise of your people

for all nations and your justice for all people.

O Christ, our light, *hear our prayer.*

We pray for this community...

With the shepherds, help us to keep watch over those entrusted

to our care and all who need protection this night.

For healthcare providers and hospital workers caring for the sick and dying.

For those lonely and alone this night whether in a hospital room or at home,  
in a prison cell, or in a shelter.

O Christ, our light, *hear our prayer.*

We pray for loved ones...

With angels, help us to offer signs of hope,  
comfort, and joy for all who live in fear, for all who are sad,  
for all those missing loved ones on this holy night.

O Christ, our light, *hear our prayer.*

Lord Jesus Christ, hope of the world,  
help us to bear witness to your light that shines  
all the brighter when the world is dark.

Shine in our hearts and families and communities this night.

And hear us in the prayer our savior taught us, saying,  
*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come thy will be done.  
On earth as it is in heaven.*

*Give us this day our daily bread.*

*Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.*

*And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.*

*For thine is the kingdom and power and the glory forever. Amen.*

### **Effluence of the Light**

John 1:1-5, 14 and 16

**Hymn 122 – See page 11. “Silent Night”**

STILLE NACHT

### **Blessing & Charge**

On this holy night

May you be filled with the light of God,  
Filled with God’s life, God’s joy, God’s hope.

Do not be afraid—

This light, indestructible, shines in the darkness.

May the love of God enfold us,

the joy of Christ encompass us,

and the Holy Spirit empower us

and abide with us this night and forever.

Amen.

**Postlude:** Noël: *À minuit fut fait un réveil*

“At midnight the world awoke.”

Jean-François Dandrieu (c. 1682-1739)

~ ~ ~ ~

**Participants**

- Dorothy Boulton, *associate pastor*
- Kathy and Keith Glennan, *video production*
- Susan Hutton, *sanctuary set-up coordinator*
- Jason Kissel, *interim organist*
- Greg Knauf, *director of music*
- Kenneth E. Kovacs, *pastor*
- Susan Krehbiel, *vocalist*
- Vickie Lord, *teleprompter*

**Image**

- From the Missal of Eberhard von Greiffenklau, Utrecht, 1446. Walters Art Gallery, Baltimore, MD.

**Sources**

- *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2013).
- *Book of Common Worship* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2018).
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**December 24, 2020**  
**Christmas Eve – Nativity of the Lord**  
**Gifts of Remembrance**  
**Given to the Glory of God**

**POINSETTIAS**

**IN MEMORY OF**

- Jack and Nancy Burger
  - Judi and Ted Heun
  - Jean and Harry Deppert
  - Vera and Joel Hutton
  - E. Theodore (Ted) Johnson, Jr.
  - Mr. and Mrs. E. Theodore Johnson, Sr.
  - Mr. and Mrs. C. Randall Kilgore, Sr.
  - Grace Morrow Kovacs
  - Ann Kay Schmidl
  - John and Patsy Jean Dunham
  - Louise and Everett Mullen
  - Grace and Irl Oaks
  - Beloved Siblings
- Our Parents
- Ernest and Daphne Pritchard
  - Erling and Betty Hedin

**GIVEN BY**

Your Loving Children and Grandchildren

Their Family,  
the Heuns and the Pates

Their Family,  
the Huttons and the Longs

Glenda Kilgore Johnson

Kenneth Kovacs

The Oaks Family

Jim and Tina Pritchard

# O Come, All Ye Faithful 133

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come  
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,  
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -  
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all  
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

### Refrain

born the King of an - gels!  
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let  
 glo - ry in the high - est!  
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

# 113 Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,  
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad - some ti - dings be which in - spire your heaven - ly song?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

## Refrain

Glo - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - - -

This French carol probably dates from the 1700s, though it was not printed until the following century. Because it uses a vernacular language for the narrative stanzas and Latin for the refrain, it belongs to a special category called "macaronic" or mixed-language texts.

TEXT: French carol; trans. James Chadwick, 1860, alt.

MUSIC: French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937

Music © 1937, ren. 1965 H. Augustine Smith Jr.

(admin. Fleming H. Revell Company, a div. of Baker Publishing Group)

GLORIA  
7.7.7.7 with refrain





The image shows a musical score for two staves, likely a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both staves have a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!". The music consists of several measures with various note values and rests. The lyrics are placed below the notes on the top staff.

## 134 Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs  
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,  
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow  
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.  
 heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

# Silent Night, Holy Night! 122

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light  
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round you vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and  
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -  
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing  
 with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"  
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.  
 King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

## GERMAN

1 *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!  
 Alles schläft, einsam wacht  
 nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.  
 Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,  
 schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,  
 schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!*

## KOREAN

1 *고요한밤 거룩한밤  
 어둠에 묻힌밤  
 주의부모 앉아서  
 감사기도 드릴때  
 아기잘도 잔다  
 아기잘도 잔다*

## SPANISH

1 *¡Noche de paz, noche de amor!  
 Todo duerme en derredor,  
 entre los astros que esparcen su luz,  
 bella, anunciando al niño Jesús,  
 brilla la estrella de paz,  
 brilla la estrella de paz.*

The tradition that this carol's tune was created for guitar accompaniment at its first singing on Christmas Eve 1818 seems reliable, though a recent find shows that the text was about two years old. But there is no question that this is now a favorite Christmas carol worldwide.



Catonsville Presbyterian Church

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