



Christmas Eve
December 24, 2025
Worship begins at 5 p.m.



Annunciation, Pablo Sanaguano

Gathering Around the Word

Prelude

Prelude from Oratorio de Noël -
String Ensemble, Don Papenbrock, organ

Camille Saint-Saëns

The Babe, The Son of Mary and Carol of the Bells
Geneva Handbell Choir

Jason Krug

Welcome

Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

Organ Voluntary

Divinum Mysterium
Don Papenbrock, organ

arr. Craig Phillips



Lighting of the Christ Candle and Call to Worship

FROM CHILD OF BLESSING

People of God,

Live in the light of the Lord.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. People of God,

Live in the light of the Lord.

God multiplied our praise; God increased our joy! People of God,

Live in the light of the Lord.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us. People of God,

Live in the light of the Lord.

He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. People of God,

Live in the light of the Lord.

He will establish and uphold God's kingdom with justice and righteousness, from this time on and forevermore.
People of God,

Live in the light of the Lord.

Tonight we light the Christ candle, praying that God's presence will fill the church, so that all will know God's
kingdom here. People of God,

Live in the light of the Lord.



Carol 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him,
born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!

True God from true God,
Light from light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
very God, begotten, not created!
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels;
sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!



When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please stand as you are comfortable.

Please silence your cellphones.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!

Prayer for Christmas Eve

Rev. Kate Culver

Carol 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

SAINT LOUIS

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him,
still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!

Proclaiming the Word

First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

Susan Landrum

Anthem

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day
Chancel Choir, Don Papenbrock, organ
Teddy Hall, Jr. and Trenton Hopkins, percussion

John Gardner

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day;
I would my true love did so chance
To see the legend of my play,
To call my true love to my dance;

Chorus

Sing, oh! my love, oh! my love, my love, my love,
This have I done for my true love

Then was I born of a virgin pure,
Of her I took fleshly substance
Thus was I knit to human nature
To call my true love to my dance. *Chorus*

In a manger laid, and wrapped I was
So very poor, this was my chance
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass
To call my true love to my dance. *Chorus*

Then afterwards baptized I was;
The Holy Ghost on me did glance,
My Father's voice heard from above,
To call my true love to my dance. *Chorus*

Second Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-4, 6-9

Samuel Ayantor

✠ Carol 88

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Verses 1, 2, 6, 7

VENI EMMANUEL

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily:
to us the path of knowledge show;
and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Third Lesson

Luke 1:26-35, 38

Martha Haythorn

Anthem

Christ Child Carol

Catherine Bennett

Words adapted from the poem "A Christmas Carol" by G.K. Chesterton
Chancel Choir, Don Papenbrock, piano

The Christ Child lay in Mary's arms,
His hair was like a light.
Oh, weary were the world,
But here is all aright.

The Christ Child lay on Mary's lap,
His hair was like a star.
Oh, weary were the world,
But here the true hearts are.

The Christ Child lay on Mary's heart,
His hair was like fire.
Oh, weary were the world,
But here the heart's desire.

The Christ Child stood at Mary's knee,
His hair was like a crown,
and all the flow'rs on earth looked up at Him,
And all the stars looked down.

Fourth Lesson

Luke 2:1-20

Matt Hepler

Homily

Bit Players in the Biggest Story
"The Seeking of the Shepherd"

Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

✠ Carol 113

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

**Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.
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?
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

Fifth Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

John Blake

Anthem

Here's A Pretty Little Baby

arr. André Thomas

Chancel Choir, Rayvon Love, soloist

Jacqueline Pickett, string bass; Teddy Hall Jr. and Trenton Hopkins, percussion

Don Papenbrock, piano

Here's a pretty little baby!
Look in the manger!
Behold, believe, and be baptized.

Wise men riding...
Bright star shining...
Name is Jesus...
Behold, believe, and be baptized.

Responding to the Word

Offertory Sentence

Susan Landrum

Music at the Offertory

Glory to the Newborn King!
Geneva Handbell Choir

Dan R. Edwards

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise one, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

✠ Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Kate Culver

TRADITIONAL

**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;
and 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 the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

Sixth Lesson

John 1:1-5

Rev. Shannon J. Kershner

✠ Spreading the Light Carol 122

Silent Night

STILLE NACHT

**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,
heav'nly hosts sing "Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born;
Christ the Savior is born!"**

**Silent night, holy night!
Song 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.**

✠ Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Toccata sur 'Il est né, le divin Enfant'
Don Papenbrock, organ

Denis Bédard

Special Participants in Today's Worship

Candle Lighters: Brian Glidewell, Chris McCain and
Pauline Glidewell-McCain

Lectors: Samuel Ayantor
Martha Haythorn
Matt Hepler
John Blake

Guest Musicians

Rayvon Love, tenor soloist

Members of Atlanta Symphoria

Violin I - Grant Gilman

Violin II - Robert Givens

Viola - Carolyn Alford

Cello - Denielle Wilson

Bass - Jacqueline Pickett

Percussion - Teddy Hall, Jr., Trenton Hopkins

Hospitality Team

Beth Grashof

Becky Battle

Philip Covin

Liz Burkhardt

Sandy Hoke

Linda Massengill

Chris Sciarrone

Ellen Thompson

Central Presbyterian Church Staff

The Rev. Shannon Johnson Kershner, Senior Pastor & Head of Staff

The Rev. Kate Culver, Associate Pastor

Susan Landrum, Director of Christian Formation & Congregational Life

Thom Dixon, Director of Music & Worship Arts

Don Papenbrock, Organist & Choral Accompanist

Kristie Johns, Director of Financial Operations

Melissa Johnson, Executive Assistant & Event Coordinator

John White, Facilities Manager

Abraha Diedre, Custodian

Karen Brown, Pianist, Nazareth & Jerusalem Choirs

Kelly Grba, Music Intern

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