

REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church



<https://www.rpcerie.org>

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2024

Worship Theme: *“The long period of waiting, in eager anticipation, is over. At long last, our Savior is born.”*

We welcome children of all ages in our Worship Service. At the Information Center in the rear of the Sanctuary, we offer children a “Book Bucket” with books and activities for their use. Parents, please do not be concerned if your young child cries. We believe that the cries of young children signal that the church is alive, well, and destined to continue for generations to come.

Prelude: *On Christmas Night* arr. Carter

Shirley Wilson, accompanist

On Christmas night all Christians sing,
to hear the news the angels bring,
On Christmas night all Christians sing,
to hear the news the angels bring,
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King’s birth.

All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night:
All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night:
Glory to God and peace to men,
Now and for-evermore, Amen!

Note: The Congregation should please remain seated.

Call to Worship: *(responsively)* Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: Hear us, O shepherd of Israel. You lead
Your people gently and kindly.

Congregation: You sent us Your light and Your salvation.

Liturgist: Hear us and restore us, Lord God Almighty. Help us to hear You and know You are here.

Congregation: Jesus Christ is our Lord, our light and our salvation. Let us praise and worship Him together.

Note: The Congregation should please stand, if able to do so.

***Carol No. 208: O Come, All Ye Faithful..... ADESTE FIDELES**
(all verses)

Note: The Congregation may please be seated.

Bidding Prayer and

The Lord's Prayer *(debts/debtors)*..... Thomas Brooks

The First Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15..... Dean K. Wilson

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Note: The Congregation should please remain seated.

Carol No. 162: Of the Father's Love Begotten *DIVINUM MYSTERIUM*
(verses 1 and 2 only)

The Second Lesson: Genesis 22:15-18 Thomas Brooks

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Note: The Congregation should please stand, if able to do so.

***Carol No. 194: O Come, O Come Emmanuel..... VENI EMMANUEL**
(verses 1 and 2 only)

Note: The Congregation may please be seated.

(...continued over...)

The Third Lesson: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7Martha Ruggiero

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Note: The Congregation should please remain seated.

Carol No. 194: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*..... *VENI EMMANUEL*

(verses 3, 4 and 5 only)

The Fourth Lesson: Micah 5:2-4 Samuel Ruggiero

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Note: The Congregation should please remain seated.

Carol No. 201: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* *St. LOUIS*

(all verses)

The Fifth Lesson: Luke 1:26-38 Lisa Gordon

The Angel Gabriel greets the virgin Mary and foretells the birth of Jesus.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Note: The Congregation should please remain seated.

Carol No. 221: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* *ES IST EIN ROS*

(verses 1, 2, and 5 only)

Special Offering: *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* ... *arr. Schmidt*

This Special Offering on Christmas Eve will support the ministry of Hope for Renewal, our church plant in the Idora/Glenwood neighborhood of Youngstown, Ohio.

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old.
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold.
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heav'n's all-gracious King";
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

The Sixth Lesson: Matthew 1:18-24 Jennifer Pontzer

St. Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

(...continued over...)

Note: The Congregation should please stand, if able to do so.

***Carol No. 203:** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* MENDELSSOHN
(all verses)

Note: The Congregation may please be seated.

The Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:8-20 Thomas Brooks
The Shepherds go to the manger.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Note: The Congregation should please remain seated.

Carol No. 223: *While Shepherds Watched
Their Flocks* CHRISTMAS
(verses 1, 5, and 6 only)

The Eighth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12 Laurel LeSuer
The Magi visit the Messiah.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Note: The Congregation should please remain seated.

Carol No. 226: *As with Gladness Men of Old* DIX
(verses 1, 2, and 3 only)

The Ninth Lesson: John 1:1-14 Robert LeSuer
St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Christmas Eve Meditation Rev. Giffone

Presentation of the Christ Candle Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: Break forth, O heavenly Light and reign
from age to age. Shine forever and let no
more greed or hatred rule in our hearts.

**Congregation: Illumine and save all creation. You
outshine all lights, even the stars and
the sun.**

(...continued over...)

Liturgist: As I light the Christ Candle, it symbolizes how Christ has brought His light to each of our lives.

Congregation: As we light our candles, may we bring Christ's light into the world in which we live.

Note: As led by our Pastor, the Congregation should please stand, if able to do so, move to the front of the church, and gather around the candelabra for the Lighting of the Congregational Candles, for the singing of the Carol, and for the Benediction.

***Instructions for Lighting of the Candles ..Thomas Brooks**

(For safety, in order to pass the flame from one candle to another, please hold the lighted candle upright and tip the unlighted candle to the lighted candle.)

***Lighting of the Congregational Candles**

We light these candles to signify the coming of Christ, the Light of the world.

***Carol: Silent Night, Holy Night.....** *STILLE NACHT*
(All verses)

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!
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!

(...continued over...)

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.”

***Benediction** Rev. Giffone

At the conclusion of the Benediction, the Congregation is dismissed.

Postlude: *Sing We Now of Christmas* arr. Carter

** Congregation should please stand, if you are able to do so*

*The stabled oxen lend their ears
to hear the cries of our Savior's birth.
His parents look in wonder at the miracle God has wrought,
fulfilling the promise men long have sought.
On a nearby hill the shepherds quake,
as a choir of angels thunders with praise.
Come to the manger, of rough wood hewn.
Come and see the Messiah's face.
Come this night to the empty tomb.
Grasp the joy of salvation's grace.
Look expectantly, wait with hope.
Know that the Christ will return again.
All you whom God has named His ones,
praise His gift of heavenly love.*

—Dan Karroll Williamson

Pastor: Rev. Benjamin D. Giffone, PhD

Minister of Music and Worship: Thomas Brooks

Accompanist: Shirley Wilson

To contact the church, please send an email to the following address:

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Or, please call or text him at: **724-221-2595**