

DECEMBER 24, 2020  
A Service *of* Worship *for* Christmas Eve

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**PRELUDE** — *Carol of the Bells* - Ukrainian Carol, arr. Jason Krug  
*What Child Is This* - English Carol, arr. Jason Krug

Bell Ensemble

**LIGHTING *of the* ADVENT CANDLES**

Bausher Family

**CHORAL INTROIT** — *Gesú Bambino* - Pietro Yon/arr. Robert Carroll

Chancel Choir

*When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows upon a winter night  
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose, the King of Love and Light.  
The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced  
And at His blessed birth, the stars their exultation voiced.  
O come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.*

*Again, the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night  
That gave the world the Christmas Rose, the King of Love and Light.  
Let ev'ry voice acclaim His name, the grateful chorus swell:  
From paradise to earth He came, that we with Him might dwell.  
O come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.*

**CALL *to* WORSHIP**

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

One: Behold, I bring you good news of great joy for all the people!

**All: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined!**

One: Behold, I bring you good news of great joy for all the people!

**All: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders and he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace!**

One: Behold, I bring you good news of great joy for all the people!

**All: The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it. On this holy night, let us worship God together!**

**HYMN** — *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

**FIRST LESSON** — *Isaiah 9:2-7*

Molly Ramsey

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM** — *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* - arr. Alice Parker

Chancel Choir

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
the mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
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, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

**SECOND LESSON** — *Luke 2:1-7*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**HYMN** — *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

ST. LOUIS

**THIRD LESSON** — *Luke 2:8-14*

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

**HYMN** — *Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA

**FOURTH LESSON** — *Luke 2:15-20*

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

One: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**SOLO** — *O Holy Night* - Adolphe Adam

Sarah Curtiss

*O holy night! The stars are brightly shining, It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining, 'Til He appear'd and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.*

*Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born;*

*Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming, With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.  
 So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming, Here come the wise men from Orient land.  
 The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger; In all our trials born to be our friend.  
 He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger, Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!  
 Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love and His gospel is peace.  
 Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother; And in His name all oppression shall cease.  
 Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, Let all within us praise His holy name.  
 Christ is the Lord! O praise His Name forever, His power and glory evermore proclaim.*  
 -- Phillippe Chapeau

## **MEDITATION**

*He Came Down*

Pastor Rhodes

## **HYMN — *Of the Father's Love Begotten***

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

## **ANTHEM — *Silent Night, Holy Night!* - Franz Grüber/arr. Robert Carroll**

Bell Ensemble

## **FIFTH LESSON — *John 1:1-5***

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

## **LIGHTING *of the* CHRIST CANDLE**

## **CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

## **HYMN — *O Come, All Ye Faithful***

ADESTE FIDELES

## **CHARGE *and* BLESSING**

## **POSTLUDE — *Angels From the Realm of Glory* - arr. C. S. Lang**

### **OTHERS PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

#### Director of Music

Tim Carpenter

#### Chancel Choir

Sara Carpenter, Carol Carpenter, Sara Curtiss, Kathryn Gilbride, Patrick Gilbride, Charlie Guenzel, Peggy Guenzel, Peter Heckman, Karl Helland, Ian Highcock, Betsy Jurey, Elizabeth Lester-Abdala, Nancy McHenry, Seth McHenry, Brit Montoro, Andrew Neiman, Greg Neiman, Madison Neiman, Nancy Powers, AK Rosenbaum, Mark Shockey, Kathryn Thomas, Caitlyn Triebel

Thanks to the Chancel Choir sopranos and sopranos of Mostly Motets for the descant on the final hymn.

Special thanks to the members of the staff and congregation for adding their voices to the melody of the final hymn.

#### Instrumentalists:

Organ: Jason Vodicka and Mark Shockey; Piano: Mark Shockey; Bell Choir: Kristine Schmidt, AK Rosenbaum, Nancy Powers, Kathryn Jervis, Beth Curtiss, Carol Carpenter; Chimes: Andrew Neiman, Madison Neiman

#### Video Ministry Volunteers

Bill Burgess, Rich Drabb, Damon Miller

Photos provided by: Damon Miller

Additional photos may be found on [unsplash.com](https://unsplash.com)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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***\*Please note all announcements for Sunday bulletins are due by noon the Tuesday before they are to be published. Please email announcements to [Bulletin@MPCusa.net](mailto:Bulletin@MPCusa.net).***

### **WELCOME TO OUR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

Whether you are a first time visitor with us this Christmas Eve or a long time member, welcome home! No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here at MPC. As we prepare to welcome the Christ child together, it is our prayer that you might know the fullness of God's love for you both tonight and in the year to come. MPC is open to everyone—if you have no church home, we invite you to begin the new year with us in worship, service, study, and fellowship. Out of care and concern for our church family and local community, much of what we are doing these days is online. We hope you will join us for worship online ([www.mpcusa.org](http://www.mpcusa.org)) each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. If you would like more information about our missions and ministries in the life of the church, please email [office@mpcusa.net](mailto:office@mpcusa.net). It would be our joy to welcome you. May God's hope, peace, joy, and love fill your heart this Christmas Eve and in all the days to come. Welcome to worship, and welcome home.

### **CHRISTMAS EVE GENEROSITY**

Your offering this Christmas Eve will support the ministry and mission of Morrisville Presbyterian Church. In addition, you may designate a gift for the "Christmas Joy Offering," which provides critical financial assistance to church leaders in need and supports scholarships for future leaders at Presbyterian schools that equip communities of color. Please include "Christmas Joy" in the Notes section of your donation or in the memo line of your check. Online donations can be received at [www.mpcusa.org/give](http://www.mpcusa.org/give) or you may send a check made out to "Morrisville Presbyterian Church" and mail it to us at 771 N Pennsylvania Ave, Morrisville, PA 19067. Thank you for your generosity and support!

### **A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: JOIN BROWN BAG & BIBLE STUDY**

***Have you been considering joining Bible Study but haven't wanted to jump in midstream? Now is the perfect time to plan to join us in January!***

Starting on Wednesday, January 6, we'll be taking the plunge into 1 Kings together! We hope you'll consider joining us for this new adventure in the new year.

EVERYONE is welcome—this includes people who read the Bible and commentaries regularly, as well as people who don't even know what a commentary is—we are learning and growing together and we have a lot of fun doing it! Make this part of your New Year's resolution and carve out a part of your week to study God's word among friends. Following our Bible Study, folks are also welcome to stay for our weekly prayer meeting that meets for about 15-20 minutes on Zoom.

**If you would like to attend Brown Bag & Bible Study (or are at least interested enough to check it out for a couple of weeks), please contact Pastor Rachel at [rachelrhodes@mpcusa.net](mailto:rachelrhodes@mpcusa.net). We'd love to have you!**

### **NEW MEMBER CLASS - JANUARY 10, 17 & 24, 2021**

If you are not a member at MPC, we would love for you to consider joining us in ministry and mission. This three-week class, led by Pastor Rachel Rhodes and Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla, will be an opportunity to explore church membership, whether you're ready to join or just curious about what that would mean. We will explore topics like, "What do we believe as Presbyterians?"; "How are we called to be the church in the world?"; "What does ministry and mission look like at MPC?"; "Who is it that God is calling me to be and how can I seek to pursue God's call more fully through membership at MPC?" This class will gather over Zoom at 9:00 a.m. for three consecutive Sundays and you'll be welcomed into membership during worship on Sunday, January 31, 2021. If you are interested in participating, please contact the church office at 215-295-4191 or [office@mpcusa.net](mailto:office@mpcusa.net). You may also speak directly with Pastor Rachel by emailing her at [rachelrhodes@mpcusa.net](mailto:rachelrhodes@mpcusa.net).

### **UPCOMING ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES**

Attention Adult Learners and Priesthood of All Believers! MPC Adult Sunday School is alive, well, and continuing into the new year. We will have Molly Ramsey teach a four-week course on social location and the Bible from January 10-31, then we will invite MPC mission partners to share the ways God's work is being done in our backyards. On February 7, a representative from Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County will share their work in Morrisville and more, as well as on February 14 a representative from Center for Child and Family Achievement will provide insight on education work in Trenton. Please join us every Sunday morning over Zoom from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. (notice the time change). If you are interested, please contact Pastor Alex at alexlesterabdalla@mpcusa.net so he can add you to the email chain with the Zoom link for each session.

### **YEAR END GIVING**

Thank you for your continued generosity and support throughout this difficult and stressful year. To ensure that your gifts appear on your 2020 giving statement for tax purposes, please make sure all gifts are post-marked, delivered to MPC, or given online by December 31, 2020.

### **2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Offering envelopes were distributed in the Advent Bags earlier this month. If you did not receive a box and would like one, please contact Laurie Jacobson by calling the church office and she will send one to you. Envelopes were not distributed to those who have signed up for online giving.

### **MPC CLOTHING CENTER CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

We would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a healthy 2021. With that said, thank you all for your donations which are much appreciated. We are currently closed and will reopen on January 7. Please **DO NOT** leave any donations at the church. Thank you again for your support.