

Order of Worship
December 24, 2017 – 6:30 p.m.
Christmas Eve

GATHERING

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Wreath (responsively)¹

Leader: Hope, peace, joy, and love. Four candles, four promises which God continually offers to us, and all of them complete in this one candle we light tonight: the Christ candle. In Christ we find the hope of transformation, the peace that follows forgiveness and restoration, the joy of community with him, and the love that encompasses us now and for all eternity, empowering us be new creations in Christ for the sake of the lost world around us. In Christ we find light, life, and the courage to follow him, wherever he leads us, knowing that he will always be God-with-us.

All: We rejoice in God's steadfast presence in our lives, and in God's unique presence in the life of Jesus. His voice still remains, and his call still rings out through the centuries, to come and follow him. And so we ask you, Lord Jesus, to be reborn in us this night, in our hearts, our minds, and our lives. May the light of your life be seen in us, as you lead us in your shining truth, as God with us, God for us, God in us. Amen.

*Hymn: "O Come All Ye Faithful"

41

HEARING THE WORD

Special Music: Phillip Pershing – "We Three Kings of Orient Are"

Scripture Readings:

Old Testament: Isaiah 9:2-7

New Testament: Luke 2:1-20

Meditation: "Christmas Is a Verb"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Hymn: "In the Bleak Midwinter"

36

A Christmas Eve Liturgy: (responsively)²

Leader: Seed of Eve, born in the night –

All: We quietly listen in the cold night air. We hear the hoofs clopping in the dust, a man's soft voice reassuring a tired woman. We hear his voice asking, "Is there room?" "Is there room for us?"

Leader: Promise to Abraham, born in the night –

All: We know the story. We know that you are coming. "Is there room?" "Is there room for you?"

Leader: Son of the Virgin, born in the night –

All: We see the shadowy figures finding the stable. "There is no room." We see the man preparing a bed in the hay. We see the woman moving heavily preparing for hours of labor.

Leader: God with us, born in the night –

All: We hear the long awaited child cry out, born at last! We hear from the hills and the pastures, your newborn cry, ringing out in the still night air. "Make room, everyone!" "Make room for me!"

Leader: Savior of the world, born in the night –

All: We see you this night. We travel across the miles to see you as a newborn child lying in a manger. And we meet you at this table, celebrating with thanksgiving, the gift of eternal life you give to us through your death and resurrection.

Celebration of the Eucharist

Invitation to the Table

May the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

Litany of the Christ Candle

¹ Adapted from a liturgy by Jeanyne Sletton, Process & Faith, 2006.

² Adapted from liturgy by Dr. Susan M. (Elli) Elliott. Source: <http://ellielliott.webs.com>.

*Hymn: "Silent Night"

1. 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.
2. 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!"
3. 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.
4. 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

Yvonne M. Thurmond, Pastor – 828-544-5076 (home)
Mary Lou Furr, Pianist and Choir Director
Rachel Marler, Organist

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Quaker Meadows Presbyterian Church

Established in 1774

In Ministry Together for the Glory of God

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