

First Presbyterian Church
Plattsburgh, New York
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS
DECEMBER 24, 2018
7:00 P.M.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude "Pastoral Symphony" From the "Messiah" G.F. Handel

Welcome

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES The Moore Family

SUNG IN RESPONSE

Light the Christmas candles, now:
 Sing of donkey, sheep, and cow;
 birthday candles for the King,
 Let the alleluias ring.

Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
 Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.

Leader: We have come to Christmas. The advent season has been our time of preparation, and now we have come.

People: The first candle is the prophecy candle. A hope come true as God gave us his Son that we might have life. A faith built on the promise of God.

Leader: The second candle is a reminder of the love Mary and Joseph had for the Christ Child, a love we too can find.

People: The third candle is the Angel's announcement of the birth of Jesus. May we be like the shepherds who heard the good news and then shared it in joy and praise.

Leader: The fourth candle is a symbol of the star which led the wise men to Bethlehem.

People: We have come to Christmas Eve and to the moment of lighting the Christ candle honoring the birth of the Son of God, who is the light of the world and who came to shed that light on our lives.

THE LIGHT John 1:1-5 pg. 91

***Hymn** (please stand) "O Come, All Ye Faithful" Red#133

THE PROPHECY Isaiah 9:2-7 pg. 638

Hymn "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Red#82

THE ANNUCIATION Luke 1:26-38 pg. 56-57

Hymn "What Child Is This" (ver.1&2) Red#145

THE DREAM Matthew 1:18-25 pg. 1

***Hymn** (please stand) "Angels We Have Heard on High" (ver.1&3) Red#113

THE BIRTH Luke 2:1-7 pg. 58

Hymn "Still, Still, Still" Red #124

THE WISE MEN Matthew 2:1-7 pg. 2

Hymn "We Three Kings of Orient Are" Red#151

THE SHEPHERDS Luke 2:8-20 pg. 58

Hymn "The First Noel" (ver. 1&4) Red#147

THE ANGELS "O Lord, You Were Born!" Anne Weems

*Hymn "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (ver. 1&3) Red#119

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY "Christmas Grace" Ruth Elaine Scherm

*DOXOLOGY (Please stand)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

LITANY OF LIGHT

Leader: The God who said, "Let there be light," has caused light to
Shine in our hearts.

People: That light is the Glory of God reflected in the face of Jesus Christ.

Leader: As our candles are a sea of light lit from the one light of Christ,

People: So may we reflect Christ's light and love in the world, as we ponder all these things in our heart.

SERVICE OF LIGHTS

[Please tip your unlighted candle to receive flame from the candle lighter person next to you. Always hold lighted candles upright. The candle should be extinguished as soon as the service ends. We will remain seated during the singing of "Silent Night" SEE INSERT]

*Benediction

We Thank:

Worship Leader: Judy Bunnell

Pianist: Vicki Washburn

Organist: David Carpenter

Choir: Vicki Washburn, director and the FPC choir members.

Greeters: The Meisenheimer Family

Ushers: Ed Washburn, Caleb Moore and Luke Moore

Acolytes: Luke Moore, Caleb Moore, Hailey Moore, Zaidee Laughlin, Kelsey Hanrahan and Amber Baker