

**Clifton Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)**

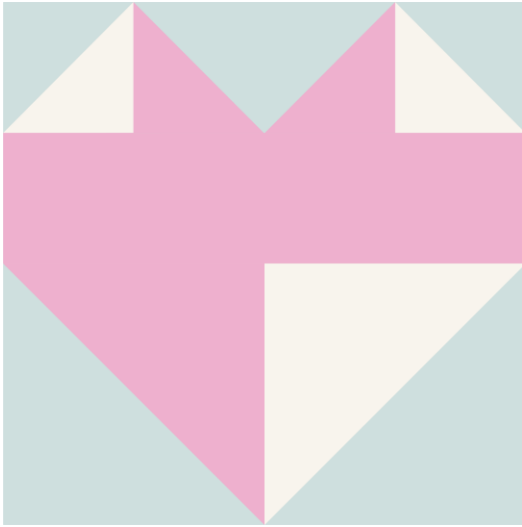
Loving God ~ Loving One Another ~ Loving the World

December 24, 2024

Christmas Eve

8:00 PM

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**Breath Prayer:**

*INHALE:* Time after time, God,  
*EXHALE:* You call me by name.

*In this quilt square the love of God is represented by a heart with three triangles that seem to fold inward, ready for an embrace.*

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**Prelude**

**Lullaby Carol**  
**Infant Lowly, Infant Holy**  
*CPC Bell Choir*

by Harlan Dykes  
arr. Arnold Sherman

**Welcome**

**\*Lighting of the Christ Candle**

One: In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

**All: Let us begin with hope. Let us begin with peace. Let us begin with joy.  
Let us begin with love.**

One: Today, we light the Christ Candle. For surely God is in this place.  
Surely the Spirit is near. Surely love knows our name.

**All: May we rest in that good news. Unto us a child is born. A light shines  
in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it. Glory to God in the  
highest heaven! Amen.**

**\*Carol**

***O Come, All Ye Faithful***  
**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!**

## Opening Prayer

One: Let us pray.

**All: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace—We are leaning forward. We are craning our necks, straining to hear a murmur of the angels' song, or an echo of a gloria. We always long for you, but on this night, on this holy Christmas Eve, we long for you to feel as close as possible. So as we prepare to hear this ancient story once again, we ask that you would awaken something new in us. Awaken in us a fire for your Word. Awaken in us proof of your proximity. Awaken in us your love, which is bigger than the sky, and as close as our very breath. With hope in our hearts, we pray. Amen.**

Special Music                      *Glory to God in the Highest*     *arr. Robert DeWell*  
CPC Choir

Lesson 1                      *Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 The Coming of the Righteous King*

\*Carol

### *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

**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.**

## Call for the Offering

*The offering plate is not passed in tonight's service. If you would like to make a physical offering, you can place your financial gift in the offering plate in the middle of the sanctuary, or you can make an online donation at [www.cliftonpc.org](http://www.cliftonpc.org). Loose plate offerings this evening will go toward the Christmas Joy Offering of the PC (USA).*

Offertory                              *How Quietly*                              *arr. Joel Raney*  
CPC & Bell Choir

## Prayer of Dedication and the Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Lesson 2                      *Luke 1:26-38 An Angel Appears to Mary*

Special Music

First Noel

*arr. Dan Forrest*

*CPC Choir*

Lesson 3 Matthew 1:18-25, *Joseph Is Visited by an Angel in a Dream*

Carol Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**

Lesson 4 Luke 2:1-7 *Mary Gives Birth in Bethlehem*

Carol Away in a Manger

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

Lesson 5 Luke 2:8-20 *Angels Announce the Messiah*

Special Music

O Holy Night

by John Dwight

*Hannah Harris, Soloist*

Lesson 6 John 1:1-5 *And the Word Became Flesh*

Sharing the Light

*As we pass the light of Christ, please hold the lit candle upright and dip the unlit candle into the lit candle. We ask that parents take special care to assist children. Please follow the lead of the pastor in raising your lit candle, and in extinguishing it.*

Carol

*Silent Night*

**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,  
Heavenly 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.**

Reflection

## Carol of Response

## *Joy to the World*

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!**

**Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

## Ringling of the Bell

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from  
One License #A- 721138 and CCLI License 20618208.

Reflection inspired by the liturgy of *Word for the Beginning:*  
*Love knows your name* by A Sanctified Art [www. sanctifiedart.org](http://www.sanctifiedart.org).

## Thanks to those leading us in worship

Hosts: Maureen Landry and Pete Daniels

Liturgists: Mark Lorey and Ashley Bybee

Technical Team: Steve Landry

Advent Candle Lighting - Christ Candle: Jim and Bette Petersen

Mission Elder: Kimberly Davis

## CPC STAFF

Rev. Dr. Diane Walton Hendricks, Pastor ♦ John Kim, Music Director

Hannah Harris, Lead Vocalist ♦ Debbie Kilpatrick, Office Administrator

Kate Trussell, Preschool Director ♦ Rev. Dr. Lynn Stanton-Hoyle, Pastor Emerita