

**First Presbyterian Church
Winnebago, Illinois
December 24, 2016 4:30 p.m.**

Liturgical color is white for the redemptive work of Jesus Christ

PREPARING FOR THE WORD

Prelude	“Carol of the Bells”	Mark Hayes
Lighting of the Advent Candle	Paul & April Haeflinger Ted & Kristy Busch	
*Hymn	“Advent Song” (v.5)	insert

Special music (with reading) “O Holy Night”
arr. Tom Fettke and Thomas Grassi

Call to Worship **Unison Reading**
Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD God made us and has declared us holy. The prophet Isaiah said that the people would see a great light. Matthew proclaimed that Emmanuel, God with us, would open a holy pathway for sinful people. This afternoon enter his gates with thanksgiving, his courts with praise, and give thanks to him because the LORD is good and his love endures forever. I will praise the Lord joyfully as I look forward to Christ's birthday. Amen and Amen.

Prayer of Adoration and Confession: **The Lord’s Prayer**

Luke 2:8 - 14

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.

Message: “Christ's Birth: The Beginning of Singing Joyfully”
with readings and Christmas Carols
“O Come, All Ye Faithful” (v.1 &3) #41
“Joy To The World” (v.1&4) #40
Pastor Carroll Smith

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Leader: On this wondrous Christmas Eve we sincerely approach the Lord’s Table with awe, praise and gratitude. It is a marvelous experience to approach the Lord's Table and celebrate Holy Communion with all of God's people in the church universal. We express genuine gratefulness to our Savior for His love, compassion, and sacrifice so that we have pardon from sin. On this blessed Christmas Eve, we commemorate Holy Communion with hearts filled with joy and we show the world that Jesus is the Savior of the world.

People: In this hour of anticipation as we wait for the celebration of Christ's birth, we enter holy communion with thankfulness that Christ has made us worthy to approach the Lord's Table in obedience to God's Holy Word. We remember the great sacrifice that Jesus has made to provide us grace, mercy, and forgiveness.

Assurance Of Pardon

Unison Reading

Merciful and gracious Light of the World, I have obeyed your Word and humbly approached you with praise and adoration. I have sincerely confessed my faults and failures on this Christmas Eve and I ask for your forgiveness and for an awakening to the miracle of your birth. By faith in you and your mercy and grace, I am forgiven and pardoned from my sins. In Jesus name, Amen.

Gloria Patri

#579

Christmas Carol (with reading) Hark! the Herald Angels Sing #31
(v. 1&3)

Presentation of Gifts and Offerings

“Away in the Manger”

Jim Brickman

*Doxology

#592

*Prayer of Dedication

Unison Prayer

Loving Creator, we are especially grateful to worship you on this wondrous Christmas Eve. We marvel at your blessings and your gracious love. With heartfelt thanks that you gave us your holy Son we present our gifts, tithes, and offerings. Please bless what we have generously given so that the good news of Christ's birth will be heard around the world. In your most holy name we pray, Amen

Passing of the Peace

RECEIVING THE WORD

Scripture:

Isaiah 9:6; Luke 2:8 - 14

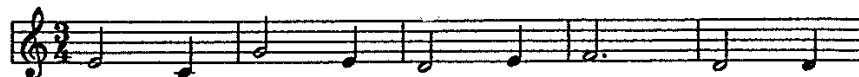
Isaiah 9:6

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

THE GRACE OF JESUS CHRIST

2090

Advent Song
(Light the Advent Candle)



1. Light the Ad - vent can - dle, one: Now the
2. Light the Ad - vent can - dle, two: Think of
3. Light the Ad - vent can - dle, three: Think of
4. Light the Ad - vent can - dle, four: Think of
5. Light the Christ - mas can - dles, now: Sing of

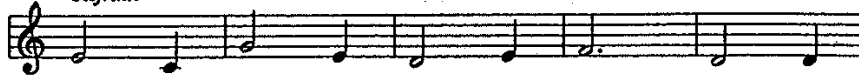


wait - ing has be - gun; we have start - ed
 hum - ble shep - herds, who filled with won - der
 heaven - ly har - mo - ny; an - gels sing - ing
 joy for - ev - er - more; Christ Child in a
 don - key, sheep, and cow; birth - day can - dles



on our way, time to think of Christ - mas day.
 at the sight of the child of Christ - mas night.
 “Peace on earth” at the bless - ed Sav - ior’s birth.
 sta - ble born, gift of love that Christ - mas morn.
 for the King, let the al - le - lu - ias ring.

Refrain



Can - dle, can - dle, burn - ing bright, shin - ing



in the cold win - ter night; can - dle, can - dle,



burn - ing bright, fill our hearts with Christ - mas light.

WORDS: Mary Lu Walker (Luke 2:1-20)
MUSIC: Mary Lu Walker
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ADVENT CANDLE SONG
77.77 with Refrain

Unison: We eat this bread and drink this cup with love and gratitude as we proclaim Christ's saving power to the world. We lift up our hearts and voices to Christ the Lord and offer thanks for His sacrifice that has given us the blessing of salvation.

Holy Communion

Served coming forward

Unison Prayer after Communion

Most loving God, thank you for allowing us to be worthy to celebrate Holy Communion with all of your people in the church universal. We appreciate the wonderful opportunity to be renewed through your Holy Spirit so that we can share the good news of salvation to others. Please keep us steadfast in your holy pathway as we celebrate your birthday during this holiday season. We ask all of these things in your most holy name, Amen.

Christmas Carol (with reading) Silent Night, Holy Night #60

Benediction

Postlude "Hallelujah Chorus" G.F. Handel

All music in our bulletin is protected under CCLI#1409680

Church number 815-335-2051

Pastoral Cell 815-742-7503

SHARING THE WORD THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Every member a minister...

Accompanist Michelle West

Guest vocalist Lydia West

Ushers Chuck Rittmeyer and volunteers