

CHATTANOOGA VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
DECEMBER 24, 2020

PRELUDE & MEDITATION

Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, you are very great! You are clothed with splendor and majesty, covering yourself with light as with a garment, stretching out the heavens like a tent. He lays the beams of his chambers on the waters; he makes the clouds his chariot; he rides on the wings of the wind; he makes his messengers winds, his ministers a flaming fire.

May the glory of the Lord endure forever may the Lord rejoice in his works, who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke! I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the Lord. Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more! Bless the Lord, O my soul! Praise the Lord!

Psalm 104:1-4, 31-35

OUR GOD GATHERS US

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

CALLING US TO WORSHIP

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM | 201

1. 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.
2. For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth! And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
3. How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.
4. O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in; be born to us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

READING: ISAIAH 11:1-10

READER: PAYTON WILLIAMS

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips she shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Tonight we light the Christ candle: what we have been waiting and watching for together with Simeon arrives this night. May our eyes remain fixed upon Him through the night into the new year.

READING: JOHN 1:1-9; COLOSSIANS 1:15-17

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 were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

WE REPLY WITH PRAISE

AWAY IN A MANGER | 205

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus Lay down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing, the baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

THE LIGHT OF GOD'S WORD SHINES IN THE DARKNESS

PASTOR DENNIS LOUIS

GALATIANS 4:1-7

HYMN OF REFLECTION

SILENT NIGHT! HOLY NIGHT! | 210

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,
alleluias to our King; Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

THE LIGHT OF GOD'S WORD SHINES IN THE SACRAMENT

OUR GOD SENDS US AS HIS LIGHT IN DARKNESS

WITH REJOICING & LIGHTING OF CANDLES

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL | 208

1. 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.
2. God of God, Light of Light; lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb: very God, begotten, not created;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
3. Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above; glory to God in the
highest; O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the
Lord.
4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning: Jesus, to thee be glory given; Word of the
Father, late in flesh appearing; O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us
adore him, Christ the Lord.

WITH HIS BLESSING

Lord, now you are letting your servants go out with joy and in peace according to your word.

For our eyes have seen your salvation that you prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles and your glory upon your people:
for from Christ, and through Christ, and to Christ are all things.

To him be glory forever. Amen.