

Virtual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Saturday, December 24, 2022
Crossnore Presbyterian Church
200 Chapel Drive, P.O. Box 386
Crossnore, NC 28616

Processional Hymn # 133 O Come, All Ye Faithful

<https://youtu.be/Y9IM6hYg4vM> - Martina McBride

**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.**

Refrain:

**O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**Sing choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! (Refrain)**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee, be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! (Refrain)**

Welcome and Announcements (PDF attachment)

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

(light the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love)

This is the final night.

Advent has waxed and waned until this final night.

Can you feel it? Something is stirring.

Transformation is taking place this night, here, among us!

Christmas is upon us and we remember the gifts Christ has granted us:

Gifts of peace, hope, joy and love.

Christmas is more than just a season, it is a state of being.

Every time we overcome evil with good,

every time we seek peace and not war,

every time fight injustice with justice,

we live into the true spirit of Christmas.

Tonight, beloved friends, we light the Christ Candle.

Christ was the first Christmas gift and is the ultimate gift.

(light the white Christ candle)

Notice that the Christ Candle it is in the center of our Advent Wreath,
just as Christ should be central to our lives and hearts.

Happy Birthday, Lord, and Savior of us all!

Let us pray:

Most Holy Christ, be born in our hearts just as you were born over 2000 years ago,
and make us people of peace, hope, joy, and love;

ADESTE FIDELES



but, mostly Lord, make us YOUR people!
Grant us the courage to live into your light and peace this Christmas
and into all other Christmases you bless us to see.
In your most holy name, we pray. Amen!

Special Music: *In the Bleak Midwinter*
<https://youtu.be/9FDgRXPSv3U> - Sonat Vox

Gustav Holst

Christmas Prayer:

O wondrous God of the stars,
we come tonight with breathless wonder
to see the babe who will change our lives.
We hear the names “Wonderful Counselor,”
“Mighty God,” “Prince of Peace,”
and we are in awe.

You have touched the earth this night
with your unconditional love.

Touch us—
touch our hearts and minds and souls.

In the midst of the busyness
we sometimes miss what it is all about—
you coming to earth—Emmanuel—God-with-us.
Help us hear anew
your promises of hope and salvation and love
as we sing our familiar carols.

Forgive us for forgetting the wonder of this night,
for focusing on ourselves and what we need to do
instead of on the miracle of Jesus’ birth.

Rock us out of our complacency.

Let us hear angel voices,
see shepherds hurrying to a stable,
feel the baby’s soft breath on our cheeks,
and ponder in our hearts what all this means
for the world, for us.

Your Love comes down at Christmas—
a love so deep and so profound
that nothing will ever be the same again.
Your love has come for us and for the world this night,
to touch us, heal us, forgive us, and make us whole.
In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

Special Music: *One Small Child*
<https://youtu.be/RbLu9-aXV1Y> - Justin and Falon Unger

text and music by David Meece

First Lesson: Luke 2:1-7

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with

Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Hymn # 121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

ST. LOUIS

<https://youtu.be/kMih36CvZPo> - Reawaken Hymns

**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.**

**For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King and peace to all the earth.**

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.**

Second Lesson: Luke 2:8-14

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward all people.

Special Music: *O Holy Night*

text by John S. Dwight; music by Adolphe Adam

<https://youtu.be/Ug7DjVvflrI> - Celtic Worship

Third Lesson: Luke 2:15-20

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Hymn # 119 *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

<https://youtu.be/9Bwn0k0k8xl> - King's College Chapel

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise; join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin womb.**

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Christmas Eve Sermon: "The Rest of the Story" (PDF attachment)

Rev. Kathy Campbell

Special Music: *What Child is This?*

based on a 16th century English melody

<https://youtu.be/0P9BQekSLL4> - Carrie Underwood

Christmas Offering will go to Volunteer Avery County for emergency winter oil and electricity

Offertory: *I Wonder as I Wander*

text: An Appalachian Carol; music by John Jacob Niles

<https://youtu.be/AuMNdYZ78Vo> - Harbour Shores Worship

Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

Gracious God, on this holy night, we praise you and give you thanks for being born once again in our lives and in your world. We thank you for the honor of bringing our offerings before you to be blessed and shared with those who are in need of heating oil and electricity to keep their homes warm this cold winter season. We thank you for the Volunteer Avery staff and helpers who give of themselves daily so that others may know your love. May our lives be a constant reflection of your light and your love. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

The Lighting of the Candles

Hymn: *Silent Night, Holy Night*

STILLE NACHT

<https://youtu.be/5BRVkgalcaE> - Kelly Clarkson, Trisha Yearwood, Reba McEntire

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 above,
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.

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.

Hymn: *Joy to the World*

<https://youtu.be/-Xo64Q2ucQ8> - Pentatonix

Joy to the World, the Lord is come!
 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.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
 and makes the nation prove
 the glories of his righteousness
 and wonders of his love,
 and wonders of his love,
 and wonders, wonders of his love.

Charge and Benediction:

Believe: for Light is now in the world
 Believe: for God has become one of us
 Believe: for Love is born in each of us

Go and believe it is as the prophets said
 and the blessing of Christmas,
 of family, of friends,
 and of God
 be with you on this holy night
 and in the days to come. Amen

Postlude: *Carol of the Bells*

<https://youtu.be/EjHkfGWS57k> - Dale Warland Singers

A Ukrainian Carol

