

*Christmas Eve Worship*  
*December 24, 2018*  
*5:00 p.m.*



Sssh.

Can you hear it?  
An expectant silence,  
a hushed anticipation,  
as if the very galaxy  
is holding its breath.  
There are some truths  
even the stars know,  
like darkness,  
like loneliness  
and how the night  
can be a living thing.  
And how once, long ago,  
the night waited in wonder  
along with the darkness  
and the loneliness,  
for the sound of a baby's cry,  
for the miraculous  
to come down  
to the earth mundane.

--Lucinda Hynett, in *Alive Now*

Prelude

*Long Ago, Prophets Knew*

Praise Band

Welcome

† Passing of the Peace

Leader: The Peace of the Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

*Please share God's peace with one another.*

† Carol #133

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

† Call to Worship

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

All: **The Light of Christ is here.**

One: Comfort, comfort, my people, say your God.

All: **The Light of Christ is here.**

One: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has  
not overcome it.

All: **The Light of Christ is here.**

One: Hear the good news of great joy: *unto us is born a Savior who is Christ the Lord.*

All: **The Light of Christ is here.**

Special Music *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* Arr. Berg  
*Ding Dong Merrily on High* French Carol  
Children's Choir, Joyful Ringers  
Scott Seifried - Guitar, Laura Seifried - Flute

Scripture Reading Isaiah 9:2-7

The Christmas Story *A Children's Liturgy for Christmas Eve* Berryman

*Children are welcomed to come forward for a time of story and song.*

Carol #121 (vs. 1) *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Carol #140 (vs. 1) *Once in Royal David's City*

Carol #115 (vs. 1) *Away in a Manger*

Carol #147 (vs. 1) *The First Nowell*

Carol #151 (vs. 1) *We Three Kings*

Carol #145 (vs. 1) *What Child is This*

Sharing Our Gifts

Special Music *Welcome to Our World*  
Jim Lawson, Barbara Lawson, Kylie Baker

Prayer of Dedication

Invitation to the Table

Prayer

Communion Music *Christmas Offering* Praise Band

Sharing the Light of Christ John 1:1-4

† Carol #122 *Silent Night*

† Blessing

Postlude *Mary's Boy Child* Praise Band

*Please place your extinguished candles in one of the baskets in the Narthex as you leave; children are welcomed to keep their glow sticks.*

## *TO OUR GUESTS...*

***WE ARE VERY GLAD YOU CHOSE TO WORSHIP WITH US THIS EVENING!*** We hope you experience the joy and peace of the celebration of Christ's birth while you are here. Please sign the friendship register in the pew so that we can greet you by name and call or visit you if you wish. Use the prayer cards in the pew if you have requests that you would like to make known to us.

***ALL SERVICES WELCOME CHILDREN OF ALL AGES AND THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS.*** Should you need childcare for your little ones during the service, we provide a nursery for infants through 3-year-olds downstairs in the Nursery Suite (Rooms 3 & 5).

***TO LEARN MORE ABOUT GRACE CHURCH, PLEASE SEE A MEMBER OF THE EVANGELISM TEAM OR AN USHER.*** First time guests are treated to a loaf of bread and information that explains our mission and ministry in the community and in the world. Information is in the Narthex just outside the door of the Sanctuary.

Your Greeters this evening were The Littles and the McVays.



***GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH***  
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### ***PASTORS***

Rev. Dr. Benton J. Trawick

Rev. Katie Murchison Ross

### ***STAFF***

Dr. Scott Seifried

- Music Program Director

Jackie Owen

- Director Joyful Ringers

Yvette Moy

- Aging with Grace

Judy Phillips

- Preschool Director

Veronica Crump

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