

# Central Presbyterian Church

## Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023

### Welcome

**Prelude** "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" (Traditional)

### \*Call to Worship

Leader: Good news of great joy!

**People: People who walked in darkness now live in great light.**

Leader: Good news of great joy!

**People: Oppression and war will not have the last word.**

Leader: Good news of great joy!

**People: A Savior is born, who is the Messiah, the Lord. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.**

### Lighting of Christ Candle

\*Response "Born In the Night, Mary's Child" 158

### Bidding Prayer

\*Carol "O Come, All Ye Faithful" 133

**Lesson** Isaiah 9:2-7

**Carol** "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"  
(verses 1 & 5) 123

**Lesson** Psalm 96

**Carol** "O Little Town of Bethlehem"  
(verses 1 & 2) 121

**Lesson** Luke 1:26-38

**Carol** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" 119

**Lesson** Luke 2:1-12

**Carol** "What Child Is This" 145

**Lesson** Luke 2:13-20

**Carol** "Angels We Have Heard on High" 113

**Special Music** "What Sweeter Music"  
(Herrick/Vaughn-Williams)

**Message** "To You" Rev. Wil Reinowski

### Christmas Joy Offering

**Offertory** "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"  
(Calkin/Longfellow)

### \*Prayer of Dedication

**Great God, accept these gifts we offer as we wait in hope for your coming again. Use all that we have and all that we are as you bring light in every darkness, ease heavy burdens, and turn our endless warring into your endless peace. In Christ's name, we ask it. Amen.**

**Sharing Christ's Light** John 1:1-5

*Please pass the light from person to person always keeping the lit candle upright.*

\*Carol "Silent Night" 122

### \*Christmas Blessing

**Postlude** "Angels We Have Heard on High" (French Carol)

\* Please stand as you are able.

**The Christmas Joy Offering**, one of our four annual special offerings, provides assistance to current and retired church workers and families in time of need and develops future leaders at Presbyterian- related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. We are collecting the offering now through December 31. Please mail your contributions to the church or drop them in the offering basket with “Christmas Joy” in the memo line.

**Our scripture readers** this evening are Kristie & Camile Sherman, Roy Johson, Terry Phillips and Andrew Meeks.

**The office will be closed** Monday and Tuesday, December 25 & 26 in observation of Christmas.

**We pray for a blessed and meaningful Christmas to you.** May it bring peace to a healing heart, rest to a weary mind, release to a soul waiting to live in joy.

Pastor: Wil Reinowski  
Traditional Music & Organist: Jeffry Stearns  
Adult Handbells: Janice Spitalniak  
Contemporary Music: Paul Foster  
Custodian: Bob Hill

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