

Christmas 2018



Christmas Eve

First Presbyterian Church of Marietta, Ohio *Service of Lessons and Carols*

December 24, 2018

6:00 pm

GREETING



PRELUDE

“Starry Night”
Westminster Bells

arr. Brenda Austin

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rejoice! I bring good news for all people.

Unto us a child is born. Alleluia!

Tonight, the angels sing on earth.

Glory to God in the highest!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Rankin Family

We have watched; we have waited . . .

. . . in hope,

. . . for peace,

. . . in joy,

. . . with love.

Now our redemption draws near!

“But the angel said to them,

‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:

to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.’” (Luke 2:10–11)

Glory to God in the highest

Alleluia! Amen!

Liturgy by Teresa Lockhart Eisenlohr. Week four icon by Swen-Peter Ekkebus from the Noun Project.



*HYMN (Insert), verses 1-4

“The Candle of Hope”

LYONS

PRAYER



Eternal God, from the tabernacle of heaven to the poverty of a stable, your radiant light shines forth in a tiny baby wrapped in rags; such humble Love astounds us. In Jesus you have become one with us that we might become one with you. Open our hearts to joyfully receive his love that he may be born in us, and we in him, through Christ our Lord. Amen.



GOD’S PROMISE TO ABRAHAM

Genesis 22:15-18
Ben Lawson, Reader



HYMN 20 (Blue Hymnal)

“Watchmen, Tell Us of the Night”

ABERYSTWYTH



THE PROMISE OF GOD’S LIGHT

Isaiah 9:2-7
Elena Lawson Reader



HYMN 15 (Blue Hymnal)


“Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers”

LLANGLOFFAN




THE PROMISE OF JESUS’ BIRTH

Luke 1:26-35
Chandler Graves, Reader

 ANTHEM "Away in a Manger" Arr. J. Weaver
PresbyPraise, Glorify! and Chancel Choir


A CHRISTMAS STORY "Twas the Evening of Christmas"
By Glenys Nellist, Illustrated by Elena Selivanova

 THE BIRTH IN THE MANGER Luke 2:1-7

 ANTHEM "Still, Still, Still" Arr. N. Luboff
Chancel Choir

 THE SHEPHERDS' RESPONSE Luke 2:8-20

 *CAROL 23 (Blue Hymnal) "Angels We Have Heard on High" GLORIA

 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE "Prince of Peace" The Rev. David Smith

 A PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

 OFFERTORY "O Holy Night" A. Adam
Carly Rankin and Gwen Sour

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Jesus Christ is the Light of the World. With the coming of this light there is peace, an inner peace that the world can neither give nor take away. May peace be in our hearts and in our homes, for Christ the Savior is born!



O Christ, Light of the World, we watch and wait for the warmth and light of your presence. As candlelight is not overcome by darkness, we rejoice that your light is radiant within us, despite the wintry seasons of our lives. We live with hope that your birth will occur in every heart and every life, and that the world will fall to its knees in joy. "O Come, to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel."


Christ Candle icon by Margaret Williams from the Noun Project.

 *HYMN (Insert), verse 5 "The Candle of Hope" LYONS


*PASSING OF THE LIGHT

Light from the Christ Candle will be shared. The lighters will share the light with persons on the aisle of each row. They, in turn, will light the candle of the person next to them. While the light is being shared, we will sing "Silent Night." Please tip the unlighted candle to the flame. We will hold our lighted candles as we sing "Joy to the World."

 *CAROL (Insert) "Silent Night, Holy Night" STILL NACHT

 *CAROL (Insert) "Joy to the World!" ANTIOCH

*DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

 POSTLUDE "In dulci júbilo (Fantasia)" J. S. Bach
"Vom Himmel hoch (From Heaven Above)" J. Pachelbel

**Indicates those who are able, please stand.*

When the service is ended, please extinguish your candle and place it in a box in the narthex.

WE WELCOME CHILDREN IN THE SERVICE. We love having all the energy they bring! Pastor David will be reading a story for all the children during the service. Thank you to Phil and Becky Schmehl for providing coverage in the nursery if any family that needs to use it.

THANK YOU FOR DONATING THE POINSETTIAS FOR OUR CHRISTMAS SERVICES. There are copies of the poinsettia memorial insert located at the top of the stairs. Please feel free to take your poinsettia home after the service. Check in with the deacon at the front as you do so.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THE READERS AND THOSE WHO SHARED THEIR MUSIC GIFTS.

CANDLES FOR THE FINAL PORTION OF THE SERVICE ARE AVAILABLE NEAR THE ENTRANCES.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HELPED PASS THE LIGHT OF THE CHRIST CANDLE.

THANK YOU TO RICK & JUDY PEOPLES, ROGER & BETSY AKEMAN, AND CATHY PIEKARSKI FOR USHERING

THANK YOU TO JOHN LEE FOR RUNNING THE SOUND

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED UNTIL TUESDAY, JANUARY 2. For pastoral emergencies, please leave a message on Pastor David's cell phone (765-499-0157).

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30 AT 10:15 A.M.

SIP N CHAT ON THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30 WILL BE A CHRISTMAS LEFTOVER POTLUCK. Bring your extra Christmas goodies to share with others!

THE 2019 SIP N CHAT SIGN UP FOR JANUARY THROUGH JUNE IS AVAILABLE ON THE BULLETIN BOARD NEAR THE WOOSTER STREET ENTRANCE.

GIVING ENVELOPES FOR 2019 ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX.

THE 2019 FLOWER CALENDAR IS POSTED BY THE BULLETIN BOARD NEAR THE WOOSTER STREET ENTRANCE. Payments for flowers can be dropped off at the church office or placed in the offering plate. The cost of flowers is \$15.