

# Covenant Congregational Church

*Christmas Eve*

Service of Worship                      December 24, 2011                      11:00 p.m.

***Arise, shine; for your light has come!***

Isaiah 60:1

PRELUDE

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

147

\*INVOCATION

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

The Gospel of Luke 2:1-7

Carol

*What Child Is This*

171

The Gospel of Luke 2:8-14

Carol

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

162

The Gospel of Luke 2:15-20

\*Carol

*Joy to the World! The Lord is Come*

146

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

We are in the very presence of God.

**For God has come out of the sanctuary of heaven in Jesus Christ.**

Let us therefore bow in prayer before our God. *(silence)*

Jesus, because you were willing to humble yourself, to become human, to make yourself nothing,

**May we not think of ourselves more highly than we ought, but humbly serve you by serving each other.**

Because you were born poor, weak, and homeless,

**May we see the poor through your eyes, being generous and willing to share the blessings we have been given.**

Because God out of his great love for us sent you to live among us and die for us,

**May we truly believe that you are the long-awaited Messiah, and therefore not perish, but have eternal life.**

Because those infant hands of the babe in the manger would be pierced on the cross as you bore our sins,

**May we, healed by your wounds, die to sin and live for righteousness.**

Because you, the infant in swaddling clothes, are our great high priest, who was tempted in every way just as we are, yet was without sin,

**May we approach your throne of grace with confidence, knowing you sympathize with all our weaknesses, and will grant mercy and grace to help us in our time of need.**

Because you are the promised Messiah, the Creator of life, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, the Alpha and the Omega, the Word made flesh,

**May we adore you, praise you, and bless you, this night and throughout the days of our lives.**

Because you, the Shoot of Jesse and the Offspring of David, the bright Morning Star, have promised to come again soon,

**May we all live in eager expectation of your return.**

**Come, Lord Jesus. Come. Amen.**

HYMN OF REFLECTION

*In The Bleak Midwinter*

151

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

\*Christmas Doxology

***To God, all glorious heavenly Light, to Christ revealed in earthly night, to God the Spirit now we raise our joyful song of thankful praise. Amen.***

\*Prayer of Dedication

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

"There Was a Time"

Pastor Johnny

VOCAL SOLO

*O Holy Night*

Adam

Sara Pattie, soprano

\*THE GOSPEL LESSON

John 1:1-14

\*SHARING THE LIGHT

\*CAROL

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

(see back of bulletin)

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

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\*Please stand, if able

**Welcome to worship as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ!**

With people around the world and throughout the ages, we give thanks to God tonight for the inexpressible gift of love extended to us in Jesus Christ. As we worship, may the old, familiar story speak to us in fresh and meaningful ways, guiding us to fullness of life, hope and love.

**Silent Night! Holy Night!**

*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 afar, Heav'nly host 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.*

*Text by Joseph More  
Music by Franz Gruber*

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There Was a Time: An Advent Poem written by Fr. Joseph Breighner

*Pastor:* Rev. Johnny Agurkis  
*Director of Music Ministries:* Kirstie Wheeler  
*Pianist/Soloist:* Sarah Pattie

**Welcome to Covenant Congregational Church!**

We're so glad you've joined us for this special service.  
Whether you have been with us for years or whether this is your first visit,  
please know that you are among friends and welcomed in the name of Jesus  
who always met people in love.

Our regular services are at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays, preceded  
by breakfast at 8:30 am and Sunday School for all ages at 9:15 a.m.

We hope you will consider joining us again.  
May the peace and blessings of Christmas be with you!

