

Covenant Congregational Church

Christmas Eve

Service of Worship December 24, 2011 4:00 p.m.

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

- Isaiah 9:2

PRELUDE

CHORAL INTROIT

Christmas Jubilation

Martin

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The promise is fulfilled!

Glory to God in the highest! Peace on earth! Goodwill to all!

The light of the world has come!

Glory to God in the highest! Peace on earth! Goodwill to all!

Unto us a Son is given! Unto us a child is born!

Glory to God in the highest! Peace on earth! Goodwill to all!

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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 th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings,

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,

born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES & THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Willette family

For weeks we have listened to obscure messages from ancient prophets.

In their words we have caught glimpses of the light that is promised. Now, though the wreath is ablaze and all the candles of anticipation have been lit, still there is one last prophecy to hear.

With eyes wide open, ears attuned and hearts unguarded, we gather around the wreath one last time, longing to receive the Word within the words.

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah, Chapter 9, verses 2 – 7

This night these words are fulfilled in our hearing for the promise of God has come to us. No longer do we seek light from another source; now the light burns in our hearts and we in turn become love's lamp.

So, on this holy night, we light the candle at the center of our wreath and our faith. We light it in the name of the One who is the Light, and, as Mary and Joseph did so long ago, we name this light Jesus.

The Lighting of The Christ Candle

*CAROL

Joy to the World

*Joy to the World! The Lord is come; let earth receive her King;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n 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 nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.*

THE WORD OF GOD

Luke 2:1-7

Response:

O Come All Ye Faithful

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,

O sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above

Glory to God, all glory in the highest; (refrain)

Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning,

O Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; (refrain)

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

*Song of Dedication

Go Tell It On The Mountain

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;

Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born! (repeat)

*Prayer of Dedication

VOCAL SOLO

O Holy Night

Adam

Soprano: Kirstie Wheeler

THE BABY IN THE MANGER

Pastor Johnny

*CAROL

Away in a Manger

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes;
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for Heaven to live with Thee there.*

*SHARING THE LIGHT

*CAROL

Silent 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.*

*BENEDICTION

Pastor: Rev. Johnny Agurkis

Director of Music Ministries: Kirstie Wheeler

Pianist: Heather Raduazzo

Organist: Jordan Willis

Welcome to Covenant Congregational Church! We're so glad you've joined us for this special Christmas Eve Service of Worship. Whether you have been with us for years or whether this is your first visit, please know that you are among friends and are welcomed in the name of Jesus who always met people in love.

Our regular services are at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings, preceded by breakfast at 8:30 a.m. 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!

