



*The*  
**LIGHT**  
*shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness did not overcome it.*

John 1:5

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## CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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*Calvary Presbyterian Church is a welcoming people of faith and hope in Christ Jesus, inspired by God's word and led by the Holy Spirit. We serve God, each other, our community, and the world, through worship, study, teaching, fellowship and outreach; demonstrating God's love, justice, compassion and grace.*

Now is a good time to turn off our cell phones and listen for God's call.

Please sign the friendship pad at the end of the pew and pass it down for others to sign.

December 24, 2009

## *Christmas Eve Candle Light Service*

### PRELUDE

### INTROIT

### ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE SON OF GOD AND OPENING PRAYER

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

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

One: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

**All: We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

One: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**All: In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

One: Let us pray.

**All: Lord of great joy and love, let our songs ring through the universe. Jesus Christ is born!  
The darkness has been banished away.**

**Open our hearts to celebrate this blessing of God's miraculous love. Amen.**

### \*HYMN 38

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" (verses 1-3)

### \*THE CALL TO BETHLEHEM

One: Let us go, just as we are, to see what has happened.

Let us go with the shepherds.

**All: Let us go and find the One of whom the angels sang.**

One: Let us go with those who are wise.

**All: Let us go and find the One who brings God's truth to us.**

One: Let us go with the poor in spirit, and in flesh.

Let us go with those who are humbled by life.

**All: Let us find the Glory of God born in a stable.**

One: Let us go with our friends and family.

Let us go with our neighbors and with strangers.

Let us go with all the children of God.

**All: let us go to find the One who comes to lead us home to God's kingdom.**

One: O come, let us go to the Babe of Bethlehem.

### \*HYMN #44

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

### A READING FROM ISAIAH 9:2, 6

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

Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us.

Authority rests upon his shoulders.

And he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

\* Please stand if you are able

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES AND THE CHRIST CANDLE

Toimbie, Devine, Bradley & Britney

### THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER

One: Dear Lord, as we hear the joyful songs of the angels  
help our words to bring joy instead of anger, comfort instead of hurt.

**All: As we watch for the shepherds' arrival,  
help us to see the homeless family by the side of the road.**

One: Come to us, Giver of light; open our eyes.

**All: Come to us, Child of compassion; melt our hearts with your love.**

One: Come to us, Servant of the poor; lead us to the lost.

**All: Come and let your promise of transformation be fulfilled in and through us.**

### A READING FROM LUKE 2:1-7 (Contemporary English Version)

About that time Emperor Augustus gave orders for the names of all the people to be listed in record books. These first records were made when Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone had to go to their own hometown to be listed. So Joseph had to leave Nazareth in Galilee and go to Bethlehem in Judea.

Long ago Bethlehem had been King David's hometown, and Joseph went there because he was from David's family.

Mary was engaged to Joseph and traveled with him to Bethlehem. She was soon going to have a baby, and while they were there, she gave birth to her first-born son. She dressed him in baby clothes and laid him on a bed of hay, because there was no room for them in the inn.

### \*HYMN #25

"Away in a Manger"

### A READING FROM LUKE 2:8-20 (Contemporary English Version)

That night in the fields near Bethlehem shepherds were guarding their sheep. All at once an angel came down to them from the Lord, and the brightness of the Lord's glory flashed around them. The shepherds were frightened. But the angel said, "Don't be afraid! I have good news for you, which will make everyone happy. This very day in King David's hometown a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. You will know who he is, because you will find him dressed in baby clothes and lying on a bed of hay."

Suddenly many other angels came down from heaven and joined in praising God. They sang:

"Praise God in heaven!

Peace on earth to everyone who pleases God."

After the angels had left and gone back to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see what the Lord has told us about." They hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and they saw the baby lying on a bed of hay.

When the shepherds saw Jesus, they told his parents what the angel had said about him. Everyone listened and was surprised. But Mary kept thinking about all this and wondering what it meant.

As the shepherds returned to their sheep, they were praising God and saying wonderful things about him. Everything they had seen and heard was just as the angel had said.

### \*HYMN #23

"Angels We Have Heard On High" (verses 1-3)

### CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

Pastor Bruce Calkins

### ANTHEM

"Go Light Up the World"

Chancel Choir

## SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

### GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: May Immanuel be with you this day!

**All: And also with you.**

One: Beloved of God, lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the One whose face shines with love upon us.**

One: Household of God, let your voices ring with joy and gladness.

**All: We sing of the One who has come to save us and give us life.**

One: O, God, the ruler of ages eternal, you are without beginning or end.

**All: Yet you choose to be born an infant in time.**

**Praise to You, O Lord.**

One: O God, the invisible, you are the One whom no one has seen or can see.

**All: Yet you have come as one who was seen and touched.**

One: O God, the all powerful, you hold the mountains in the palm of your hand.

**All: Yet you let yourself be wrapped in swaddling clothes.**

One: O God, the composer of the symphony of the universe, angels sing your glory.

**All: Yet you choose to be rocked to sleep by the songs of the daughter of David.**

One: O God, the infinite. Heaven and earth cannot contain you.

**All: Yet you were born in a small town and lived in a small country.**

One: O God, the perfect joy, you are the source of the happiness of heaven and earth.

**All: Yet you cry like a little child.**

One: O God, the eternal Word, you are the light of all created intelligence.

**All: Yet you are laid in a manger and cannot even speak.**

**Praise to You, O Lord.**

One: Now bless these elements ...

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;**

**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND BLESSING OF THE CUP

*After the choir is served, those in the sanctuary will come forward by the center aisle, beginning with those in the front pews.*

### Prayer After Communion

**All: Gracious God, creator and lover of the universe, be born in us again, as you were born long ago. Be born in us as you continue to be born again and again in the words and deeds of faithful people. Be born in us as light, as joy, as peace, as justice. Be born in us so that we may be the body of Christ in this time and this place. Amen.**

## Taking the Light into the World

### Hymn #60 Silent Night

*We will light our candles as we sing.*

*When lighting candles, please keep the lighted candle upright.*

*Only dip the unlighted candle.*

#### Verse 1:

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.

#### Verse 2:

Silent night, holy night,  
Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar.  
Heavenly hosts sing, "Alleluia."  
Christ the Savior is born;  
Christ the Savior is born.

#### Verse 3:

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.

#### Verse 4:

Silent night, holy night,  
Wondrous star, lend thy light  
With the angels, let us sing,  
Alleluia to our King  
Christ the Savior is born;  
Christ the Savior is born.

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Please leave the sanctuary prayerfully and in silence.

Offering plates are near the door in the rear of the sanctuary.

We are glad you are here to celebrate this holy night of the birth of Christ.

May Christ shine in your heart this night and every night. Merry Christmas!