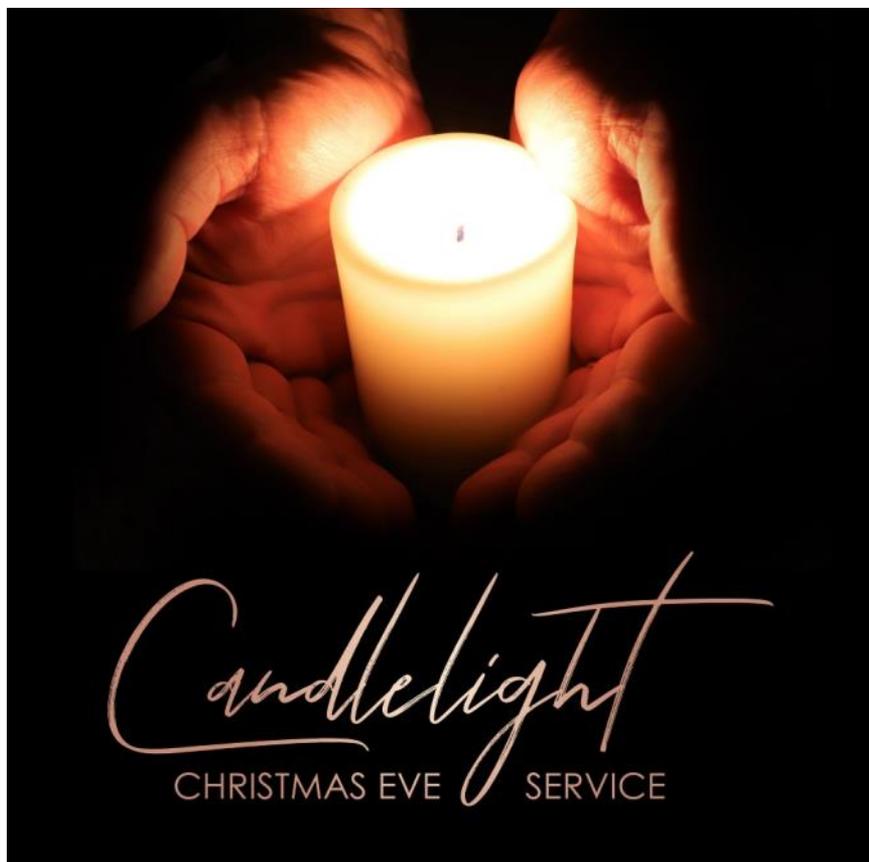




Ascension PCA

DECEMBER 24, 2022



Candlelight
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

A community of worshipping, maturing,
and multiplying disciples of Jesus Christ,
to the glory of God the Father,
by the power of His Spirit,
and in the hope of God's Kingdom.

Hymns & Stories

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 52:7–10, Isaiah 9:6–7

M: How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings good news,
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,
who publishes salvation,
who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

The voice of your watchmen — they lift up their voice;
together they sing for joy;
for eye to eye they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

Break forth together into singing,
you waste places of Jerusalem,
For the LORD has comforted His people;
He has redeemed Jerusalem.

The LORD has bared His holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

**P: For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon His shoulder,
and His name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

**Of the increase of His government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over His kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.**

PRAYER OF ADORATION & INVOCATION

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

**Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild;
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies.
With angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."**

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

**Christ, by highest heav'n adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come,
offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail, th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased, as man, with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.**

***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 man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.**

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

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

Words by Charles Wesley (1739, 1753; Alt.)
Music by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1840);
arr. by William H. Cummings (1856).

PUBLIC DOMAIN

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.**

***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,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God,
glory in the highest:**

***O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!***

**Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
born this happy morning:
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n!
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:**

***O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!***

Words by John Francis Wade (1751); tr. by Frederick Oakeley (1841; alt.).
Music from John Francis Wade's *Cantus Diversi* (1751).

PUBLIC DOMAIN

AFFIRMATION OF THE INCARNATION

M: Of the Father's love begotten,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the Source, the Ending He,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!

**P: We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
all that is, seen and unseen.**

**M: O that birth, forever blessed,
when the virgin full of grace,
by the Holy Spirit conceiving,
bore the Savior of our race;
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed His sacred face,
evermore and evermore!**

**P: We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
Light from light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.
Through Him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
He came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
He became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day He rose again
according to the Scriptures;
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and His kingdom will have no end.**

**ALL: Christ, to You with God the Father
and the Holy Ghost,
high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be:
Honor, glory, and dominion,
and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore! Amen!**

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.***

**While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.**

***Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.***

**The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth.**

***Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.***

**Down in a lowly manger
our humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.**

***Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.***

African American spiritual (19th century).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

**It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heav’n’s all-gracious King”;
the world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come,
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav’nly music floats
o’er all the weary world:
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hov’ring wing,
and ever o’er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.**

**And ye, beneath life’s crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing.**

**For lo, the days are hast’ning on,
by prophet bards foretold,
when with the ever-circling years
comes round the age of gold;
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song
which now the angels sing.**

Words by Edmund Hamilton Sears (1850).
Music by Richard Storrs Willis, (1850) .
PUBLIC DOMAIN

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 11:1–5, Isaiah 22:22, Malachi 4:2

- ¹⁴ Therefore the LORD Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.
- ¹ There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
- ² And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- ³ And His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what His eyes see, or decide disputes by what His ears hear,
- ⁴ but with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and He shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall kill the wicked.
- ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt of His waist, and faithfulness the belt of His loins.
- ²² And I will place on His shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and He shall shut, and none shall open.
- ² But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.**

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell Thy people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.**

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.**

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**O come, Thou Key of David, come
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.**

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.***

Words from Latin antiphons (12th century); Latin hymn (1710);
translated by John Mason Neale (1851; Alt. 1951).
Music: plainsong (13th century); arranged by Thomas Helmore (1856).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

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 hosts 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.**

Words by Joseph Mohr (1818); translated circa 1850.
Music by Franz Gruber (1818).
PUBLIC DOMAIN

THE BLESSING

Do not be afraid, for behold,
I bring you good tidings of great joy...
a Savior has been born to you;
He is Christ the Lord.

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ASCENSION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ASCENSION-PCA.ORG

**10:00AM: Worship Service
(in-person & livestream)**

Meeting Address:

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Mailing Address:

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APC Office:

Mon & Wed & Fri (9:00AM-5:00PM)
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