

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Aisquith Presbyterian Church

December 24, 2019

7:00 PM

Prelude *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* German melody

*Call to Worship

“Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let earth receive her king! Let every heart prepare him room! And heaven and nature sing!”

This Christmas Eve, we light this white candle as a visible sign that Jesus Christ is at the center of our lives and at the heart of this church. And we confess together...

We believe in “one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of Gods, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.”
from *The Nicene Creed*

*Hymn No. 225 *Once in Royal David's City* H. J. Gauntlett
(choir will sing v. 1 – congregation will then stand and sing v. 2)

*Invocation

The Nine Lessons of Christmastide

THE FIRST LESSON Genesis 3:1-15

God declares in the Garden of Eden that the seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Choir *The Bleak Midwinter* Christina Rossetti/Roy Ringwald

THE SECOND LESSON Genesis 22:15-18

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

*Carol No. 195 *Joy to the World* Antioch

THE THIRD LESSON Isaiah 7:10-14; 9:2, 6, 7

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by the prophet.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Choir *Do You Hear What I Hear?* Noel Regney and Gloria Shayne, arr. Harry Simeone

THE FOURTH LESSON Micah 5:2-4

The prophet foretells the glory of Bethlehem.

	Reader: The Word of the Lord. Congregation: Thanks be to God.	
*Carol No. 201 (vv. 1, 2)	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	St. Louis
THE FIFTH LESSON		Luke 1:26-38
	The angel Gabriel visits the Virgin Mary.	
	Reader: The Word of the Lord. Congregation: Thanks be to God.	
*Carol No. 213 (vv. 1, 2)	<i>What Child Is This</i>	English Carol
THE SIXTH LESSON		Luke 2:1-7
	The Evangelist tells of the birth of Jesus.	
	Reader: The Word of the Lord. Congregation: Thanks be to God.	
Choir	<i>Mary's Little Boy Child</i>	Jester Hairston/arr. Ed Lojeski
THE SEVENTH LESSON		Luke 2:8-16
	The shepherds go to the manger.	
	Reader: The Word of the Lord. Congregation: Thanks be to God.	
*Carol No. 199 (vv. 1-4)	<i>See, amid the Winter's Snow</i>	Goss
A Story of Christmas		<u>The Legend of St. Nicholas</u>
*Carol No. 203	<i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>	Mendelssohn
THE EIGHTH LESSON		Matthew 2:1-11
	The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.	
	Reader: The Word of the Lord. Congregation: Thanks be to God.	
The Offering of Our Gifts		
The Offertory	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	Traditional French
*Carol No. 230	<i>Thou Who Was Rich</i>	French carol
THE NINTH LESSON		John 1:1-14
	St. John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation.	
	Reader: The Word of the Lord. Congregation: Thanks be to God.	
*Carol No. 210	<i>Silent Night, Holy Night</i>	Stille Nacht
*Benediction		
	(Please carefully extinguish all candles <u>before</u> you leave your seat!)	
Postlude	<i>God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen</i>	English melody

A very special thanks to Mr. Scott Engel for coordinating our music and musicians this evening.

Our Christmas Offering will go to the *PCA Ministerial Relief Fund*.

If you donated a poinsettia for this year's service, thank you! You may take it home after the service.

The 2020 offering envelopes are in the narthex. If you would like to begin using envelopes for your giving, please speak to Pastor Bell.

Please pick up your Christmas Cards!

Our instrumentalists tonight are:

Flute - Anna Fuhrman
Clarinet - Colleen Michael
Trumpet - Aaron Grauel
Trumpet - Naomi Conaway
Horn - Michael Behnke
Trombone - Chris Hettenbach
Euphonium - Zac Al-Radiedeh
Tuba - Hannah Flach