

*Christmas
Eve
Candlelight
Service*

DECEMBER 24, 2025



**SALEM
HELLERS**
Evangelical Reformed Church



Salem Evangelical Reformed Church, Hellers

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2025

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. Isaiah 9:2

Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

Prelude—Preparing our Hearts for Worship

David Andrews

***Opening Hymn**—*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*


JESUS THE SON – BIRTH AND CHRISTMAS

238 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
3. Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteous-ness!

Words: Charles Wesley; alt. George Whitefield

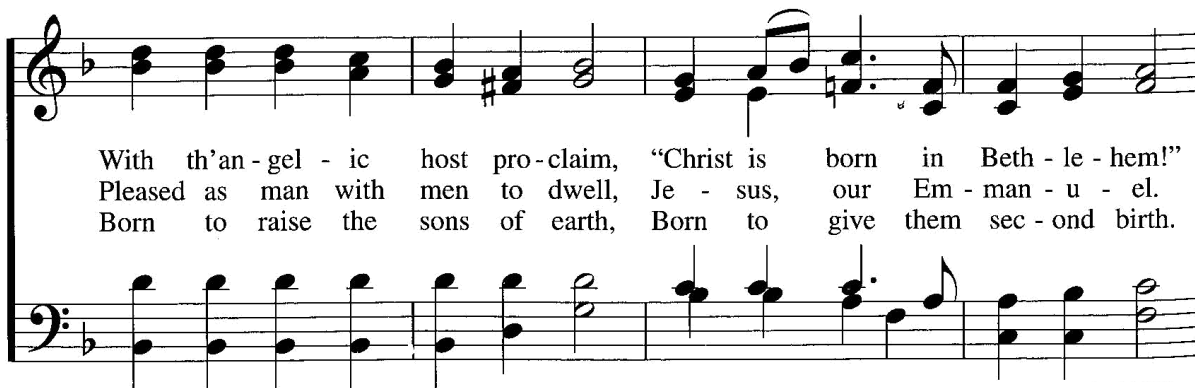
Music: Felix Mendelssohn; arr. William H. Cummings



Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb:
 Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; Hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
 Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King."

John 1:1-5, 9-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it... The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

Matthew 1:22-23

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means 'God with us').

***Our Prayer of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love**

(congregation in unison)

Heavenly Father, tonight we light the Christ Candle, celebrating the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World. We thank You for the gift of Your Son, who came to bring hope, peace, joy, and love to our hearts and to a world in need. As we light this candle, may it remind us of the light that shines in the darkness—a light that the darkness can never overcome.

Lord, fill our hearts with the warmth of Your presence and help us carry Your light into the world. May we be reflections of Your love, bringing hope and peace to those around us. Let this Christmas be a reminder of Your promise to be with us always, through Jesus, our Savior.

In His precious name, we pray, Amen.

Call To Worship—*O Come, All Ye Faithful

231 O Come, All Ye Faithful

• 1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come ye, O
 • 2. God of God, Light of Light e - ter - nal, lo, he ab -
 • 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; O sing, all ye
 • 4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je - sus, to

come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come and be - hold Him, born the King of
 hors not the vir - gin's womb; Ver - y God, be - got - ten, not cre -
 cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the
 Thee be all glo - ry giv'n; Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap -

an - gels!
 at - ed; O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,
 high - est!
 pear - ing!

O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Words: Latin Hymn, ascribed to John Francis Wade; tr. Frederick Oakeley

Music: John Francis Wade; Last stanza setting and choral ending by Richard Kingsmore

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Lessons and Carols

Genesis 3:8-15

Nancy Rovers

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.
But the Lord God called to the man and said to him,
“Where are you?” And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.”
He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”
The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?”
The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”
The Lord God said to the serpent,
“Because you have done this, cursed are you
above all livestock and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.
I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

***Congregational Hymn—Fullness of Grace**

Fullness of Grace 221

1. Full-ness of grace in man's hu-man frail - ty; This is the won-der of Je - sus.
 2. Full-ness of grace, the love of the Fa - ther shown in the face of Je - sus.
 3. Full-ness of hope in Christ we had longed for, Prom-ise of God in Je - sus,

Lay - ing a - side His pow - er and glo - ry hum - bly He en - tered our world.
 Stoop - ing to bear the weight of hu - man - i - ty walk - ing the Cal - va - ry road.
 Through His o - be - dience we are for - giv - en, o - p'ning the flood - gates of heav'n.

Chose the path of mean - est worth; Scan - dal of a vir - gin birth.
 Christ the ho - ly in - no - cent took our sin and pun - ish - ment.
 All our hopes and dreams we bring glad - ly as an of - fer - ing.

Born in a sta - ble, cold and re - jec - ted: Here lies the hope of the world.
 Full - ness of God, de - spised and re - jec - ted: Crushed for the sins of the world.
 Full - ness of life and joy un - speak - a - ble: God's gift in love to the world.

Words and Music: Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend

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*And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time
from heaven and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord,
because you have done this and have not withheld your son,
your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your
offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore.
And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies,
and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed,
because you have obeyed my voice.*

***Congregational Hymn—Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus**

JESUS THE SON – HIS ADVENT

216 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The melody consists of 12 measures. The lyrics are written below the staff, with two verses provided. The first verse is: '1. Come, Thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy'. The second verse is: '2. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a child, and'. The lyrics are aligned with the notes of the melody.

Words: Charles Wesley

Music: Rowland H. Prichard

peo - ple free; From our fears and sins re - lease us;
 yet a King, Born to reign in us for - ev - er,

Let us find our rest in Thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so -
 Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By Thine own e - ter - nal

la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art; Dear de - sire of
 Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone; By Thine all - suf -

ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
 fi - cient mer - it, Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.
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.*

Choral Anthem—*The First Christmas Gift (R E Schram)*

*The first Christmas gift was the treasure of heaven,
sent from the Father to earth with love.
He came as a child, bringing hope for mankind.
On that first Christmas day, the first Christmas gift was Jesus.*

*Long ago the prophets were telling of the coming of Messiah to earth;
and a faithful few were watching and waiting,
looking forward to the baby's birth.
And their hearts were filled with anticipation
to see God's Son, the Incarnation.
"Emmanuel, Emmanuel, oh come to us", they prayed.*

*The baby would be born of a virgin;
they would call his name Emmanuel.
He would bring to us the hope of salvation,
for God himself with man would dwell.*

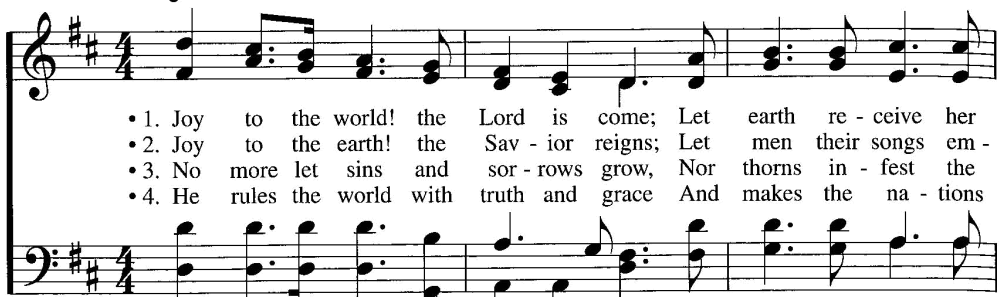
*And their hearts were filled with anticipation
to see God's son, the incarnation.
"Emmanuel, Emmanuel, oh come to us", they prayed.
The first Christmas gift was the treasure of heaven,
sent from the Father to earth with love.
He came as a child, bringing hope for mankind.
On that first Christmas day, the first Christmas gift was Jesus.*

Isaiah 11:1-9

Natalie Bennett

*There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. 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.
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, 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.
Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.
They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.*

224 Joy to the World!



• 1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth re - ceive her
 • 2. Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns; Let men their songs em -
 • 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in - fest the
 • 4. He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions

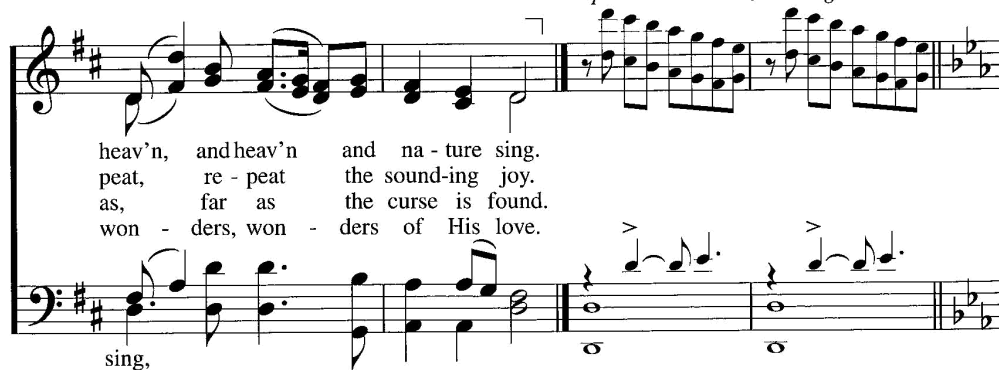


King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him room, And
 ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains Re -
 ground; He comes to make His bless - ings flow Far
 prove The glo - ries of His right - eous - ness, And



heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture sing, And
 peat the sound-ing joy, Re - peat the sound-ing joy, Re -
 as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far
 won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His love, And
 1. And heav'n and na-ture sing,

1. And heav'n and na-ture sing, And heav'n and na-ture
Optional last stanza setting



heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 peat, re - peat the sound-ing joy.
 as, far as the curse is found.
 won - ders, won - ders of His love.
 sing,

Words: Isaac Watts

Music: George Frederick Handel; arr. Lowell Mason; Last stanza setting and choral ending by David Hamilton

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***Congregational Hymn—Joy To The World**

Luke 1:26-38

Monica Barbosa

*In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God
to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man
whose name was Joseph, of the house of David.
And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said,
“Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!”
But she was greatly troubled at the saying,
and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.
And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary,
for you have found favor with God.
And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,
and you shall call his name Jesus.
He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.
And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,
and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever,
and of his kingdom there will be no end.”
And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”
And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore
the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold,
your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son,
and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.
For nothing will be impossible with God.”
And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord;
let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.*

*All is well, all is well; angels and men rejoice;
For tonight darkness fell into the dawn of love's light.
Sing Alleluia.*

*All is well, all is well; let there be peace on earth.
Christ is come, go and tell that He is in the manger.
Sing Alleluia.*

*All is well, all is well; lift up your voice and sing.
Born is now Emmanuel; Born is our Lord and Savior.
Sing Alleluia. Sing Alleluia. All is well.*

Matthew 1:18-23

Bill McLain

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way.

When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying,

“Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

Choral Anthem—*There Is Faint Music* (D. Forrest)

*There is faint music in the night, and pale wings fanned by silver flight;
A frosty hill with tender glow of countless stars that shine on snow.*

*A shelter from the winter storm, a straw-lined manger, safe and warm,
And Mary singing lullabies, to hush her Baby's sleepy sighs.*

*Her eyes are fixed upon His face, unheeded here is time and space;
Her heart is filled with blinding joy, for God's own Son — her baby Boy!*

*There is faint music in the night, and pale wings fanned by silver flight;
A frosty hill with tender glow of countless stars that shine on snow.
For God's own Son — a baby Boy.*

Luke 2:8-20

Betty Snyder

*And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field,
keeping watch over their flock by night.*

*And an angel of the Lord appeared to them,
and the glory of the Lord shone around them,
and they were filled with great fear.*

*And the angel said to them, "Fear not,
for behold, I bring you good news of great joy
that will be for all the people.*

*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,
who is Christ the Lord.*

And this will be a sign for you:

you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”
And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host
praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”
When the angels went away from them into heaven,
the shepherds said to one another,
“Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened,
which the Lord has made known to us.”
And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph,
and the baby lying in a manger.
And when they saw it, they made known the saying
that had been told them concerning this child.
And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.
But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.
And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God
for all they had heard and seen,
as it had been told them.

The Message—*The Shepherds: A Common Man’s Perspective on Christmas”*

Luke 2:8-20 (see above)

Pastor Scott Johnston

Congregational Hymn—While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks 239

1. While shep - herds watched their flocks by night, All seat - ed
 2. "Fear not," said he, for might - y dread Had seized their
 3. "To you, in Da - vid's town this day Is born, of
 4. "The heav'n - ly Babe you there shall find To hu - man
 5. "All glo - ry be to God on high And to the

on the ground, The an - gel of the Lord came down,
 trou - bled mind, "Glad tid - ings of great joy I bring
 Da - vid's line, The Sav - ior, who is Christ the Lord;
 view dis - played, All mean - ly wrapped in swath - ing bands,
 earth be peace. Good - will hence - forth from heav'n to men

And glo - ry shone a - round, And glo - ry shone a - round.
 To you and all man - kind, To you and all man - kind.
 And this shall be the sign, And this shall be the sign:
 And in a man - ger laid, And in a man - ger laid.
 Be - gin and nev - er cease, Be - gin and nev - er cease!"

Words: Nahum Tate
 Music: George Frederick Handel

Matthew 2:1-11

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: “‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

Choral Anthem—A New Noel (T. L. Boyd)

*The first Noel, the angel did say,
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.*

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King, the King of Israel.

*For all to see there was a star shining in the east, beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.*

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King, the King of Israel.

*Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
who hath made heaven and earth of naught,
and with His blood mankind hath bought.*

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King, the King of Israel.

John 1:1-14

Bob Kauffman

*In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God.
All things were made through him,
and without him was not any thing made that was made.
In him was life, and the life was the light of men.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

*There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light,
that all might believe through him.
He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.
The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.
He was in the world,
and the world was made through him,
yet the world did not know him.
He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.
But to all who did receive him,
who believed in his name,
he gave the right to become children of God, who were born,
not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.
And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father,
full of grace and truth.*

Musical Offering—*In Bethlehem* (D. Forrest / E. Dewar)

Natalie Bennett, Carolyn McLain

*Though the road was long, the time drew near,
Heaven's King on earth would soon appear.
Yet, no bed prepared; no waiting crown.
Just a stable near the edge of town.*

Here the Child was born so far from home

*To those humble trav'lers all alone.
So they whispered low their soft amen,
on that lonely night in Bethlehem.*

*Come behold the shepherds, oft unseen,
Chosen first to look though rough, unclean.
'Tis the Christ! Now peace on earth begins:
He will save His people from their sins.*

*See our Mighty God has done great things!
Hear the angel hosts His glories sing "Alleluia!"
And repeat the sounding joy again
On that holy night in Bethlehem.*

*You are worthy, Jesus, Lord of all,
Stooping down to grace that cattle stall.
You did not recoil to meet us there,
All our weakness, shame and grief to share.*

*So bring down the mighty from their seat;
Gently lift the humble to their feet,
That we all would at your manger bend
To behold that sight in Bethlehem.*

*See our mighty God has done great things!
Hear the angel hosts His glories sing
And repeat the sounding joy again
On that holy night in Bethlehem.*

Candle Lighting

Please remain seated while candles are lit and the quartet sings two verses of *Peace, Peace* leading into *Silent Night, Holy Night*.

To receive the light as it is passed, tilt your unlit candle into the flame. Keep your candle upright at all times to avoid dripping wax.

When invited, stand for our candlelight hymn.

*Candlelight Hymn—*Silent Night, Holy Night*

When the pastor extinguishes his candle, carefully extinguish your own.
Keep your candle upright as it cools.

*Benediction

Please return your candle to the baskets by each door.

Postlude

Merry Christmas!

If this is your first time here, welcome!

Please fill out a visitor's card (in the pew rack) and drop it in the offering box.

Offerings may be placed in the offering boxes by the doors.

You can also text SH to 717-807-5656 or scan this QR code.



236 Silent Night, Holy Night

• 1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, All is calm, all is bright
• 2. Si - lent night! ho - ly night, Shep-herds quake at the sight.
• 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light

Round yon vir - gin moth-er and Child! Ho - ly In - fant so ten - der and
Glo - ries stream from heav-en a - far, Heav'n-ly hosts sing: "Al - le - lu -
Ra - dant beams from Thy ho - ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing

mild, Sleep in heav-en - ly peace, Sleep in heav-en - ly peace.
ia! Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born."
grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Words: Joseph Mohr
Music: Franz Gruber

Carolyn McLain, Director of Music
David Andrews, Organist and Pianist

Sanctuary Choir

SOPRANO

Natalie Bennett

Nancy Dearolf

C H

K H

Belinda Oswald

Marie Peazzoni

Lee Pelko

Susie Snyder

ALTO

Monica Barbosa

Joann Cooper

Merri Davis

Dawn Oswald

Mary Rineer

Nancy Rovers

Sharon Yoder

TENOR

George Cooper

Bill McLain

Mark Steller

BASS

Bob Kauffman

Gerald Oswald

Mark Oswald

Rey Rovers

Ladies Quartet

Natalie Bennett

C H

K H

Carolyn McLain

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