



The Presbyterian Church Order of Worship

Christmas Eve 2023 ~ 7:45 and 10:00 p.m.

A warm welcome is extended to each one attending this service tonight.
May the joy and hope of this season richly bless you and your loved ones.
Please add to the reverence of this worship service by turning off cell phones.

PRELUDE

Cranham

by Gustav Holst

CALL TO WORSHIP

*HYMN 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of grace and truth,
in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness.
We confess that we have not welcomed the light,
or trusted good news to be good.
We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst,
expecting little, and hoping for less.
Forgive our doubt and renew our hope, so that we may receive
the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF PARDON

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Angels We Have Heard on High

HYMN 113

WORDS OF WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

(7:45) Asay Family

(10:00) Teresa Jones & Isabella Henriquez-Jones

Let us all rejoice in the birth of Jesus.
For unto us a child has been born, unto us a Son is given,
and his name is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
**May the light sent from God shine in the shadows of our
lives to show us God's way.**



*HYMN 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

(7:45) Brett Lakefield

(10:00) Schmitt Family

**As you came in the stillness of dark, great God, enter our lives this night.
Overcome darkness with the light of Christ's presence,
so that we may clearly see the way to walk,
the truth to speak, and the life to live; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:1-20

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHRISTMAS EVE MEDITATION

Dennis Jones, Pastor

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Maureen Paterson, Associate Pastor

OFFERTORY

Manger Throne (7:45)

by Phil Wickham

Caitlyn Costello, solo

On Christmas Night (10:00)

arr. Ian Higginson

Combined Choirs

PRESENTATION HYMN

What Child Is This (v. 1 & 3)

HYMN 145

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet

While shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, one and all, to own Him.

The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

*PRAYERS OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

*HYMN 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

***SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

Please tilt your unlit candle to receive the light from your neighbor's lit candle.
When all the candles have been lit, the carol will be sung by all.

***HYMN 122**

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!**

(Please raise your candles)

**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**

(Following the Benediction, please extinguish your candle and be seated.)

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Dona Nobis Pacem

Traditional

Trio (7:45)

Combined Choirs (10:00)

POSTLUDE

The First Nowell

English Carol

**Those who are able are invited to stand.*





Go out in joy – Christ is born!

***May the blessings of Christmas
continue to be with you and those you love.***

THE OFFERING this evening supports programs, missions and ministries of The Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church.

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST—Light is received from the Christ candle and passed from the ministers to the congregation. The symbolism is that of the coming of the Light of the World, and the spreading of his Light to all people.

GRATITUDE is expressed to the Robinson Family for the presence of the nativity figures on the Communion Table.

SPECIAL THANKS to our greeters and ushers, and to the Sanctuary and Alumni choirs for their time and dedication in providing music for these Christmas services.

PLEASE take special care with the candles during the lighting ritual.

FIRE DRILL PROCEDURES are on the back cover of the hymnals.