

Prelude "O Splendor of God's Glory Bright" arr. Brenda Portman

Welcome Rev. H. Neely Gaston, D. D.

Invocation

Lord's Prayer

Candle Lighting: The Christ Candle Gene and Nancy Bailey

Trinity Hymnal, 227 "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing" SUSSEX CAROL

Scripture Romans 13:8-14

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹ Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Sermon "The Law of Love"

Trinity Hymnal, 195 "Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come!" ANTIOCH

Communion

Invitation to the table

Words of Institution

Receiving the Bread and the Cup

(Worshippers, beginning with the choir, will be directed by the deacons to come forward for Communion.)

Prayer

Candles will be lit during the reading of Saint Luke's account of the birth of Christ.
For safety, please tip your unlit candle to the lit candle and pass the light down the aisle.
Lights will be extinguished when all candles are lit.

The Birth of Christ

St. Luke 2:1-19 ESV

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" ¹⁵ 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." ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Anthem "Before the Marvel of This Night" Carl Schalk

*Prayer

*Benediction

*Carol

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

STILLE NACHT

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.

² 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!”

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!

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.”

Worshippers are invited to the fellowship hall for cocoa and cookies.

As you exit the sanctuary, please extinguish your candle and place it in one of the brown bins.



Union

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church



Christmas Eve
Sunday, December 24, 2023
5:00 PM