



## Christmas Eve

December 24, 2022 || Virtual Campus

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### Welcome

Merry Christmas! Welcome! Whether this is your first time at Towson Presbyterian Church or you are here regularly, we celebrate your presence on this special night.

As a growing church that values inclusion, curiosity, compassion, and courage, we are excited to now offer both an in-person and a virtual campus. The virtual campus can be found at [towsonpres.org](http://towsonpres.org) and on social @towsonpres. To learn more about TPC, we hope you'll explore [towsonpres.org](http://towsonpres.org) and the many opportunities provided for fellowship, formation, and mission.

We warmly invite you to join us for Sunday worship at 10:00 a.m., offered both in-person and virtually, and at any and all TPC ministries and events. Your presence would be a blessing then, just as it is this afternoon. Again, welcome!

### *Christmas Eve Reflection*

Cheryl Lawrie (*adapted*)

*We gather—people of faith and no faith,  
people of hope and no hope,  
people of peace and no peace.  
We gather with the longing to be made whole again.  
We gather with a prayer,  
that despite the absence of virgins and angels,  
wise men and shepherds,  
we might still be a witness  
to the birth of all love.  
We gather to worship... to participate...  
in this story of faith still unfolding.*

### *Prelude*

Christmas Medley

### *Welcome*

### *Call to Worship*

Roddy Hamilton & Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy (*adapted*)

*Leader: We have heard the promise of the prophets.*

*People: We have caught the notes of the angels' song.*

*Leader: We have seen a star in the heavens.*

**People:** And we marvel at such love.

*Leader:* Emmanuel, you are God with us!  
Tonight, we have come to be with you  
because you have come to be with us.

**People:** You came as a tiny, vulnerable spark—  
a newborn baby, visible to parents and animals,  
amid a host of angels singing to migrant shepherds  
far away from the bustling, populated areas.

*Leader:* Open our hearts, O God, to the sparks of your presence in this world.

**People:** Open our eyes to your presence  
in the least likely of places,  
and among the least likely of people.

*Leader:* Kindle your spark within us,  
that together we may shine forth your light,  
banishing the shadows of this world,  
continuing the proclamation of your Christmas miracle:

**People:** Emmanuel—God is with us.

**\*Carol #133**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

*Adeste Fideles*

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come  
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,  
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -  
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all  
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

*Refrain*

born the King of an - gels!  
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let  
 glo - ry in the high - est!  
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

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

## ***A Christmas Prayer of Petition & Promise***

Ted Loder (*adapted*)^

**Leader:** Lord of Life and Light, help us not to fall in love with the darkness that separates us from you and from each other, but to watch large-eyed, wide-hearted, and open handed for you.

**People:** Lord, amidst our white-knuckled, furrow-faced busyness in this season, we realize deep within us that, more than anything else, your gifts of mercy and life, peace and joy, grace upon grace are the gifts we need.

**Leader:** So this is our prayer, Lord: Open us! Gentle us open; pray, shock, knock, amaze, any wily way you can us open to your coming.

**People:** Open us to see your glory in the light of each day and the light of love wherever it is spoken and shared.

**Leader:** Open us to the songs of angels in the hum of hope, the wail of longing within us and the cries of our brothers and sisters for justice and peace, and in our own souls' throb toward goodness.

**People:** Open us, then, to share the gift you have given us and to the deep yearning to share them gladly and boldly, to sweat for justice, to pay the cost of attention, to initiate the exchange of forgiveness, to risk a new beginning free of grievances, to engage with each other in the potluck of joy, and to find the gifts of a larger love and deeper peace.

**Leader:** Open us, Lord, to the breath-giving, heart-pounding wonder of birth, that we may be born anew ourselves into the "don't be afraid" fullness of your image, the fullness of a just and joyful human community, the fullness of your kingdom, in the fullness of your time; through the grace of the One who was born among us, for us. Emmanuel. Amen.

## ***Prayer for Illumination***

### ***First Lesson***

Isaiah 9: 2-7

Rebecca McKenna

Isaiah foretells the Messiah's Birth

### ***\*Carol#108***

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*  
(stanza 1 -choir; stanzas 2-3 -all)

Divinum Mysterium



1 Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be - gan  
 2 By his Word was all cre - at - ed; he com-mand-ed; it  
 3 O, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed when the Vir - gin, full  
 4 This is he whom seers in old time chant-ed of with one  
 5 O ye heights of heaven, a - dore him. An - gel hosts, his prais -  
 6 Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost,



to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga; he the  
 was done: heaven and earth and depths of o - cean, u - ni -  
 of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the  
 ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets prom-ised  
 es sing. Powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him, and ex -  
 to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks-giv - ing and un -



source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that  
 verse of three in one, all that sees the moon's soft  
 Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's Re -  
 in their faith - ful word. Now he shines, the long - ex -  
 tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be  
 wea - ried prais - es be. Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,  
 shin - ing, all that breathes be - neath the sun,  
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,  
 pect - ed. Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord,  
 si - lent; ev - ery voice in con - cert ring,  
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry,

*(after stanza 6)*



ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

<i>Second Lesson</i>	Isaiah 11: 1-9 The Coming New King	Charlotte Bott
<i>Carol</i>	Spotless Rose	Ola Gjeilo
<i>Third Lesson</i>	Luke 1: 26-38 Gabriel Announces the Christ's Coming	Thomas Sheggrud
<i>Carol</i>	A Boy Was Born	Will Todd
<i>Fourth Lesson</i>	Luke 2: 1-7 The Christ Child is Born	Ella Simet
<i>Carol</i>	O Bethlehem	arr. Clarence Dickinson

### *A Christmas Prayer of Hope & Intercession*

*Leader: Almighty yet Humble One, on this Holy Night, you moved from Creator into Creation, in love, for love. As we celebrate this Holy Night, we see anew the greatest revelation of your power and love amid the Savior of the world—enfleshed as an infant—wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. He came to inaugurate your peaceable kingdom, that all may know the truth of your love and the fullness of your grace.*

**People:** Yet we acknowledge, Holy One, that we have not always pursued your kingdom or its values. Love has not been our highest aim. Guide us as we turn again to your perpetual call to live as kingdom-builders, who pursue the things that make for peace not just for some, but all.

*Leader: On this Holy Night, O God, we pray for the least and the last, the marginalized and forgotten.*

**People:** Tear down the dividing walls we so fervently build, O God. Show us again the way of your love made flesh, and our call to love those the world disregards, until all know the truth of your love for them.

- silence -

*Leader: On this Holy Night, we know many struggle to celebrate the coming of your kingdom amid deep poverty and broken systems.*

**People:** In a world of abundance, so many have so little. Lead us into the ways of your compassion, O God, that those who lack what we so often take for granted may find the hope of your promises fulfilled.

- silence -

*Leader: On this Holy Night, when pains, grief, fears, and loss can seem to quell the joy to be found in community and festivities, we beseech your presence with those who suffering in body, heart, or mind.*

**People:** Present One, draw near to those struggling with grief, loneliness, despair, or illness this season, that they may know true comfort and find fresh hope.

- silence -

*Leader: On this Holy Night, amid the violence of a world that prioritizes power before people, we pray for those who lead nations.*

**People:** **May they seek peace before power.**  
**May they speak with civility rather than hostility.**  
**May they respect your image within all your children,**  
**that all creation might know the peace you intend.**

*- silence -*

*Leader: On this Holy Night, we pray for those who must cross borders to live, and all who live as refugees.*

**People:** **May they, like Mary and Joseph, find harbors of safety and communities of welcome.**

*- silence -*

*Leader: And on this Holy Night, we pray, Coming One, for ourselves.*

**People:** **Help us open our hearts to your presence, that we may be transformed by the new birth of this Holy Night. Be born in us again, O God, that we might know the depth of your love for us, and so shine your light of love for all. Amen.**

***Fifth Lesson***

Luke 2: 8-20  
The Good News for All People

***\*Carol#119***

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Mendelssohn

1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.  
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!

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, risen 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 the in-car - nate de - i - ty,  
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.  
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.





*Sixth Lesson*

Matthew 2: 1-12  
They Bowed Down & Worshipped Him

*Offering our Gifts in Prayer and Thanksgiving*

Ways to offer financial gifts:

- Towsonpres.org – click orange “Give to TPC” button at top of page
- Text “CheerfulGiver” (one word; no spaces; case sensitive) to 73256
- Drop off or mail check to the church
- Scan this QR code →



*Offertory*

*Candlelight Carol*

John Rutter

## The Service of Lights

*The sanctuary lights are dimmed to symbolize the darkness of the world without Christ.*

*Those worshipping remotely are invited to dim the lights.*

*The burning Advent candles represent the divine source of light coming into the world.*

*Seventh Lesson*

John 1: 1-14  
The Light of the World Has Come

*Lighting of the Christ Candle*

Remote Worshippers: You are invited to light a “Christ candle.”

*If using an advent wreath or four candles (any size) placed in a circle, the Christ candle sits in the center of the wreath/circle.*

In-Person Worshippers: The pastors will light the candles of the ushers, who will then light the candle of the first person on the inside of each pew so that the light may be passed down the pew. Please **tilt the unlit candle towards the lit candle**, keeping lit candles upright.

*We will sit and hold the lit candles throughout the singing of “Silent Night,” stand and lift them up for the Charge & Benediction, and then extinguish their flames following “Joy to the World.”*

*Carol #122*

*Silent Night, Holy Night!*

Stille Nacht

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  
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy 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 - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -  
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing  
 with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our

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.  
 King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

*\*The Charge & Benediction*

*\*Carol #134*

*Joy to the World*

Antioch

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs  
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,  
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow  
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and  
 sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.  
 heaven and na - ture sing,

\*Congregation standing, as able.

^Litany adapted from "Gentle Us Open" by Ted Loder, *My Heart in My Mouth: Prayers for Our Lives* (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2000), 106-107.

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CHRISTMAS FLOWERS, 2022

*Poinsettias are available for pick-up tonight **after** the 8:00 service.*

*Given by:*

Phyllis Gray and Bob Bickel, in memory of Charles and Pauline Gray.

Phyllis Gray and Bob Bickel, in memory of David W. Bickel.

Phyllis Gray and Bob Bickel, in memory of Lydia Gray White.

Phyllis Gray and Bob Bickel, in memory of Susan McCluskey Gray.

Denise and Dennis Blake, in memory of Dr. Charles and Mrs. Nilda Blake; James and Phyllis Francis; and Debra Bailey.

Jennifer and Mark Bolster, in honor of our TPC Pastors.

Jennifer and Mark Bolster, in honor of our TPC staff.

Margie Busko and Family, in memory of Bill Busko and loved ones.

Margie Busko and Family, in loving memory of Mary Busko.

Barbara and Curt Heinfeld, in memory of loved ones.

The Hemingway Family, in honor of Robert Hemingway.

The Hemingway Family, in memory of Gail Hemingway.

Anne S. Hohl, in memory of George E. Hohl, and their parents – Dr. & Mrs. H.B. Smith.

Anne S. Hohl, in memory of George E. Hohl, and their parents – Mr. & Mrs. G.O. Hohl.

Susan and Carl Hossfeld, in honor of their family.

John S. Hutton, in memory of Harold W. Hutton.

John S. Hutton, in memory of Lewis J. Baumann.

Patricia and David Jackson, in honor of our grandson, Augustus.

Will Jones, in memory of Naomi Tillman.

Will Jones, in memory of Estelle Jones.

Pat Keller, in honor of Dana, Brian, Camden and Bohden.

Pat Keller, in memory of Doug.

The Kuhlman Family-Jim, Scottie and Shelby, in loving memory of Julie Kuhlman.

Betty and Brian Martin, in memory of our parents Alice & Theodore Martin.

Betty and Brian Martin, in memory of our parents John and Gloria Roberts.

Joyce E. Nuttall, in memory of loved ones.

Mary Jane Obaker, in memory of Rodney Obaker.

Mary Jane Obaker, in memory of Shannon Obaker.

Ginny Probasco, in memory of Libby Younglove.

Paul Schwab, in honor of my parents.

Carol Whiteford, in memory of loved ones.

Karen Williams, in honor of Gareth, Amy, Catrin and Hannah.

Karen Williams, in memory of Jaye Crooks.

Karen Williams, in memory of Bob Williams.