

A bright starburst light shines from the top center, casting a beam of light down onto a church building at night. The church is illuminated from within, and its reflection is visible in the water in the foreground. The sky is dark with some stars.

# GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
CANDLELIGHT + COMMUNION SERVICE**

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE**  
**DECEMBER 24, 2023**  
**11:00 PM**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE** *Improvisation on GREENSLEEVES* Fedak  
Dr. Terry McRoberts

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** *Rev. John White*  
One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**ALL:** *And, also, with you.*  
One: Tonight, we remember the beginning of the story of Jesus Christ, the only Son of God.  
**ALL:** *In the beginning, the Word was with God, and all things were made through Him.*  
One: In the Word was Life, and the Life was the Light of all Mankind.  
**ALL:** *Now God's Word has been made flesh among us.*  
One: For Jesus Christ, the Son of Mary, the Son of God, is born this night.  
**ALL:** *In him the Light shines, and the darkness has not overcome it.*  
One: Come to Bethlehem, that we might worship Emmanuel, for God has come to dwell among us!  
**ALL:** *O come all you faithful, rejoice in this night, as God comes among us, the Christian's true light.*

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLE** *(see insert)* Lane, Courtney, Cleve + Carter Bowen

**RESPONSE** *(all singing, refrain only Hymn 88)*  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.* VENI EMMANUEL

**FIRST READING** *Luke 1:26-35* *Rev. Courtney Bowen*  
*Luke tells of the angel Gabriel's message to Mary of the coming birth of the Son of God.*

**\*HYMN: 384** *Soon and Very Soon* SOON AND VERY SOON

**SECOND READING** *Luke 2:1-7* *Rev. John White*  
*Luke tells of Christ's holy birth.*

**\*HYMN: 137** *He Came Down* HE CAME DOWN

**THIRD READING** *Luke 2:8-20* *Rev. Courtney Bowen*  
*The shepherds go to the manger.*

**HYMN: 110** *Love Has Come*

BRING A TORCH

**FOURTH READING**

***John 1:1-14***

*Rev. John H. White*

*The light of God illumines our darkness.*

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

***What Child is This?***

Jeff Chambers, soloist

**CHRISTMAS EVE MEDITATION**

*Rev. John H. White*

**ANTHEM**

***O Holy Night***

Susannah White, soloist

Adam

### **SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**INVITATION AND GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** (*see insert*)

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

### **SERVICE OF CANDLELIGHTING**

**\*HYMN: 122** *Silent Night, Holy Night!* (*see back cover*)

STILLE NACHT

*Weather- permitting, the ushers will direct the congregation outside to the front of the church while singing "Silent Night." Please take your candles as you exit, but leave the hymnals in the pew racks. Continue to sing the hymn as you exit the church following the words on the back of the bulletin. Please return candles to boxes on front steps of the church after the benediction.*

**\*BENEDICTION** (*outside, weather permitting*)

*\*Congregation standing*

### **COMMUNION SERVERS**

Rev. John White

Rev. Courtney Bowen

Elder Stacey McAdams

Elder Tammy Buchanan-Anderson

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,*  
*Heavenly 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.*

