

WORSHIP FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2025

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

CHRISTMAS EVE

PRELUDE

***CALLING TOGETHER:** “O Come, All Ye Faithful” GtG 133 (*Verses 1 & 3*)

1. **O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him,
born the King of angels!**

Refrain:

**O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!**

3. **Sing, choirs of angels;
sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all
glory in the highest!**

(Refrain)

Words: John Francis Wade, ca. 1743; trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, alt.
Music: ADESTE FIDELIS, John Francis Wade, ca. 1743; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906
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CALL TO WORSHIP (from Luke 2)

One: Come, all you faithful ones.
Come, all who are seeking to be faithful.
Come, all who are seeking.
Come.

All: "Let us go now, even unto Bethlehem,
to see this thing that the Lord has made known to us."

HYMN “Born in the Night, Mary’s Child” GtG 158

1. **Born in the night, Mary's Child,
a long way from your home;
coming in need, Mary's Child,
born in a borrowed room.**
2. **Clear shining light, Mary's Child,
your face lights up our way;
Light of the world, Mary's Child,
dawn on our darkened day.**
3. **Truth of our life, Mary's Child,
you tell us God is good;
yes, it is true, Mary's Child,
shown on your cross of wood.**
4. **Hope of the world, Mary's Child,
you're coming soon to reign;
King of the earth, Mary's Child,
walk in our streets again.**

Words: Geoffrey Ainger, 1964, alt.

Music: MARY'S CHILD, Geoffrey Ainger, 1964; harm. Richard D. Wetzel, 1972

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SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:1-7

“WHAT CHILD IS THIS?” (from *What Child Is This* GtG 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?"**

Words: William Chatterton Dix, 1871

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.; arr.

Christmas Carols New and Old, 1871

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ANTHEM: “Were You There on That Christmas Night?”

Words and Music by Natalie Sleeth

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“WHY LIES HE...?” (from *What Child Is This*)

**"Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading."**

***HYMN "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" GtG 119**

- 1. Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with the th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"**
- 2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see;
hail the th'incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"**
- 3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.
Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr.
William Hayman Cummings, 1855
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"SO BRING..." (from *What Child Is This*)

"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."**

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.
All: **And also with you.**
One: Lift up your hearts.
All: **We lift them to the Lord.**
One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

(The prayer continues...)

The Lord's Prayer (Traditional)

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

(You are invited to go ahead and partake of each of the elements as you are served, remembering how Christ comes to you.)

Prayer

***HYMN** "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" GtG 129 (*Verses 1-2*)

**1. Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming,
by faithful prophets sung.
It came, a floweret bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.**

2. Isaiah `twas foretold it,
the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright
she bore for us a Savior,
when half spent was the night.

Words: German carol; stanzas 1, 2 trans. Theodore Baker, 1894, alt.
Music: ES IST EIN' ROS', *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesang*,
1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1609
Public Domain.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: The Christ Candle

One: *"Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee."*
 ("Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus")

One: We light a candle on this Christmas Eve,
 for Christ is born.

All: **The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shone.**

One: For a child has been born for us,
 a son given to us;
 authority rests upon his shoulders,
 and he is named
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

All: **We call this candle Hope.**
 (Light the first candle.)
 We call this candle Peace.
 (Light the second candle.)
 We call this candle Joy.
 (Light the third candle.)
 We call this candle Love.
 (Light the fourth candle.)
 We call this candle Christ.
 (Light the center candle.)

One: This baby will bring hope,
 embody peace,
 give joy,
 and be God's love incarnate.

One: On this night, we welcome the Christ child,
Emmanuel, God with us.
We join our voices with the multitudes and heavenly host, exclaiming:
Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth, peace to all.

**All: Lord, Jesus, we celebrate your birth among us again.
Alleluia!**

***CLOSING HYMN** "Silent Night, Holy Night!" GtG 122
(with candlelighting)

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.
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.

Words: Joseph Mohr, 1816; stanzas 1-3, English trans. John Freeman Young,
1863; stanza 4, English trans. Jane Montgomery Campbell, 1863, alt.
Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818
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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

One: ...And let the gathered people of God say...

All: ...Amen.

***RESPONSE** (from *What Child Is This*)

**"This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!"**

POSTLUDE

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