



Gilead Presbyterian Church
December 24, 2021 – 7:30 p.m.

Convinced of God's Grace, we affirm that there can be no exclusiveness in the body of Christ. We welcome all regardless of race, ethnic heritage, national origin, age, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic standing; and we encourage the full participation of all in the life of our congregation.



PRELUDE

"The First Noel"

Zoe Temple, trumpet; Della Temple, flute;
Jeurgen Tempel, cello; John Vangor, guitar; Julie Stan, clarinet

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

**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!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 Rachel McGeachy

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

People: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

Leader: For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder;

People: And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

ALL: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it!

HYMN

"Joy to the World!"

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and heaven and nature sing.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.**

UNISON PRAYER

Great God, as you came at night when all was still, so enter our lives this night. Illumine our paths with the light of Christ's presence, that we may clearly see the way before us, the truth to speak, and the life to live for him, our Lord Jesus Christ, our Emmanuel, our Prince of Peace. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. {19} Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. {20} But while he thought on these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. {21} She shall bring forth a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." {22} All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: {23} "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." {24} When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, {25} but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

HYMN

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

**It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth, To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, From heaven's all gracious King":
The world in solemn stillness lay, To hear the angels sing.**

**For lo, the days are hastening on, By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song Which now the angels sing.**

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. {2} This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. {3} All went to their own towns to be registered. {4} Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. {5} He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. {6} While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. {7} And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

MUSIC

"Lo, How a Rose"

M. Praetorius

Laura Carlson, Julie Stan, Martin McGeachy, Alex Carlson, quartet

ANGELS APPEAR TO THE SHEPHERDS Luke 2:8-14

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. {9} And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. {10} And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. {11} For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. {12} And this shall be a sign unto you; You shall find the child wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, good will toward all in whom God delights.

HYMN "Angels We Have Heard on High"

**Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

THE SHEPHERDS HASTEN TO BETHLEHEM Luke 2:15-20

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." {16} So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in the manger. {17} When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; {18} and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. {19} But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. {20} The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

MUSIC "Rise Up Shepherd/How Great Our Joy"
Penny Cameron, piano; Mary Temple, organ

MESSAGE Rev. Martin McGeachy

MUSIC "O Holy Night"
Elizabeth Ojeda, harp; William Petito, keyboard

PRAYER

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, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.



LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES



HYMN

“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, Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."

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.

BLESSING

CHORAL BENEDICTION

“Dona Nobis Pacem” (“Give us peace”)

Traditional

*Poinsettias adorning the Gilead chancel this Christmas
are lovingly donated by:*

*†Margery and Laura Amato, in memory of
Greg Amato, Marion and John Knapp, Nat and May Amato*

*†Mary Kay Wells, in memory of
Robert & Thelma O’Neal, Bob, Don, Pat, Butch, Ron, and Barbara.*

*†Dolores Knapp, in memory of
Richard Van Vlack and loved ones.*

Thank you to our videographer, Stephanie Gould.

† We accept offerings through the “Online Giving” link on our website, www.gileadchurch.org, or mail checks made out to Gilead Presbyterian Church, 9 Church Street, Carmel, NY 10512. Or give elsewhere if you see a need. In doing so, we brighten the world, and brighten our hearts.

GILEAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Martin McGeachy, Pastor
Mary Temple, Music Director
Diana Drake Behan, Church School Superintendent

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www.gileadchurch.org

