



**Gilead Presbyterian Church
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 24, 2022 – 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.

GATHERING MUSIC

Gilead Instrumental Ensemble
Della Temple, flute; Jeurgen Tempel, cello;
Billy Petito, guitar; Elizabeth Petito, harp; John Vangor, guitar;

PRELUDE

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"
Gilead Bell Chimes

by Lewis Redner
arr. by F.L. Callahan

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

***PURPLE HYMNAL #133**

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

**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!
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!
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

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!

***PURPLE HYMNAL #134**

“Joy to the World!”

**1. 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.**

**2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

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

MUSIC

**“Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella”
Della Temple, flute**

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.

***PURPLE HYMNAL #123 (G#128, B#38)**

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

**1. 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.**

**4. And you, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:
O, rest beside the weary road, and hear 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, Tim Stan, Alex Carlson, quartet; Mariah Warren, recorder

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.

*PURPLE HYMNAL #119

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

**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 angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”**

**3. Hail the heaven-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!”**

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 "Angels We Have Heard on High" French Carol
Gilead Singers
*Congregation joins on the chorus: **Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!***

MESSAGE Rev. Martin McGeachy

MUSIC "A Christmas Meditation" by Roy E. Nolte
Penny Cameron, piano; Mary Temple, organ

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.

THE OFFERING

A portion of our Christmas offering will go to The Lilac House in Westchester (www.thelilachouse.org), helping women transitioning from incarceration to successfully reenter the community by providing them with a home. Their trauma and other individual needs will be addressed in a supportive environment with mentors who have shared experience.

OFFERTORY "O Holy Night"
Elizabeth Ojeda, harp; William Petito, guitar

***PURPLE HYMNAL #136 "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"**
**Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

**3. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.**

**Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION



LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES



PURPLE HYMNAL #122

“Silent Night, Holy Night!”

**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.**

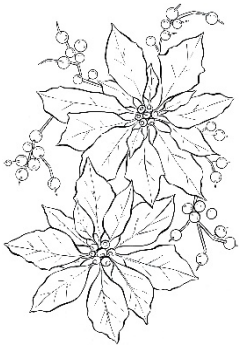
**4. Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.**

BLESSING

CHORAL BENEDICTION

**“Dona Nobis Pacem”
 (“Give us peace”)**

Traditional



Thank you to our videographer, Stephanie Gould.

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

- †Annina Celli, for loved ones*
- †Bob Dutra & Linda Mahony, for loved ones*
- †Katherine Foote, in memory of Dr. Benjamin Penn*
- †Mary Lou Cassidy, in memory of loved ones*
- †Martin & Liz McGeachy, in memory of Alice, Pat & Dan*
- †Carol Oehlschlager, for loved ones*
- †Barbara Murray, in memory of loved ones*
- †The Steinberg family, in memory of loved ones*
- †Leslie Palmieri, for Carol Laufer, Ray & Betty Brown, Geof & Sarah Mason*
- †Anonymous, in memory of loving mother and Alice Bryant*
- †Dolores & Roy Knapp, in memory of loved ones*
- †Mary Temple, in memory of Jenny and loved ones*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday Bible Study is on Christmas vacation. See you in 2023!
Saturday, Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:30pm. An instrumental ensemble will begin playing at 7:15.

Musicians' schedule for Dec. 24th:

6:15 set-up and rehearsal for the Gilead Bell Chimes

6:45 Gilead Singers

7:00 Ensemble set up and rehearsal; Elizabeth & Billy Set-up
Quartet and Mariah on recorder in Church School Rm

7:15 Ensemble begins playing prior to Worship as Congregation assembles

Sunday, Dec. 25 – Christmas Day worship at 10am, lots of carols and joy!



† 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

