

Christmas Eve
2023



Gilead Presbyterian Church

GILEAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service **Sunday, December 24, 2023, 7:30 p.m.**

GATHERING MUSIC (7:15) Elizabeth Petito, Harp; Billy Petito, Guitar; Juergen Tempel, Cello; Della Temple, Flute; Zoe Temple, Trumpet

OPENING MUSIC "For Unto Us a Child is Born" G.F. Handel
Gilead Bell Chimes

RESPONSIVE ANNOUNCEMENT

Leader: I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

People: Joy to the world; the Lord is come!

*PURPLE HYMNAL #147 "The First Nowell"

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE
(Congregation responds following both readers)

Congregation: We live as people in the in-between who celebrate the arrival of the Light that shines in lost and broken places as we wait for the day when we will live in the fullness of God's kin-dom.

SONG OF LIGHT Light five candles, Christ is coming, Christ, the Light of the World, Light five candles, Christ is coming, Christ is coming soon!

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 GLORIA **"Gloria in Excelsis Deo!"**

*THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: Peace be with you.

People: And also with you.

*PURPLE HYMNAL #132

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!"

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Matthew 1:18-25

*PURPLE HYMNAL #123

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Luke 2:1-7

ANTHEM

"Still, Still, Still"

Austrian Carol

Alex and Laura Carlson, Della Temple, Julie Temple

ANGELS APPEAR TO THE SHEPHERDS

Luke 2:8-14

ANTHEM

"Carol of the Angels"

by Lani Smith

Penny Cameron, piano, and Mary Temple, organ

THE SHEPHERDS HASTEN TO BETHLEHEM

Luke 2:15-20

