

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 Tuesday, December 24, 2024, 7:30 p.m.

GATHERING MUSIC (7:00) Elizabeth Petito, Harp; Billy Petito, Guitar; Juergen Tempel, Cello; Della Temple, Flute; Zoe Temple, Trumpet; Mariah Warren, Recorder

OPENING MUSIC "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" Praetorius
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 #133 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

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 #147 "The First Noel"

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 "Prayer at the Manger" by Don Besig
Gilead Singers with Della Temple, flute & Nancy Price

ANGELS APPEAR TO THE SHEPHERDS Luke 2:8-14

ANTHEM "Prince of Peace" arr. By Paul O'Neil
Mariah Warren and Duane Stroud-Boutté

THE SHEPHERDS HASTEN TO BETHLEHEM Luke 2:15-20

ANTHEM "Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow" African-American Spiritual
Gilead Singers
MEDITATION Tim Stan

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, LORD'S PRAYER
RESPONSE #469 "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

THE OFFERING
OFFERTORY "O Holy Night" Adolphe Adam
Elizabeth and Billy Petito, harp and guitar

*DOXOLOGY: PURPLE HYMNAL #121 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" v.1
PRAYER OF DEDICATION

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES
PURPLE HYMNAL #122 "Silent Night, Holy Night"
John Vangor & Zoe Temple, guitars, and Della Temple, flute

CHORAL BENEDICTION "Dona Nobis Pacem"

Thank you to our lay readers and musicians this evening, as well as our videographers, Stephanie Gould and Lexie Fischer, and our sound and light team of Evan and Josh Steinberg.

Our chancel greenery has been given by the Behan Family in loving memory of Warren Behan.

Christmas Eve 2024



Gilead Presbyterian Church

9 Church Street, Carmel, NY 10512

www.gileadchurch.org