

Christmas Eve



6:00 PM
DECEMBER 24, 2009

First Presbyterian Church, 11 Washington St.,
301-777-3700 ☞ first@pennswoods.net

Cumberland, Maryland 21502
☞ fpc-cumberland.org

Coming Together in Christ

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Chorale Prelude on "Silent Night"

Samuel Barber

Entering God's Presence

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: When we are happy, When we are full of fun and laughter,

People: God welcomes us. *(Ring bells softly)*

Leader: When we are angry, when people let us down and make us sad,

People: God welcomes us. *(Ring bells softly)*

Leader: When we are tired, when we need to stop and curl up and rest,

People: God welcomes us. *(Ring bells softly)*

Leader: God of welcome, God whose door is always open,

People: We are glad to meet you here. *(Ring bells loudly)*

* HYMN #23

Angels We Have Heard on High

"Gloria"

THE PRAYER OF APPROACH

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (together) **God, we live in a world that needs to change. We are part of the world. Sometimes, we do things that hurt each other, things that are wrong. There are some things that we need to sort out. God we are sorry. We want to do things differently. Let us listen to God's words, words for those who want to change.**
(Ring bells)

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

MUSIC

We Three Kings

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Leader: Light a candle in the darkness, Light a candle in the night, Let the peace of Jesus light us like a candle in the night.

People: He did not come in wealth and grandeur. He did not stand with men of power. He had no status to commend him. He was homeless, he was poor.
(Light the first Advent candle.)

But he came to heal the wounded and he came to heal the scars of a world that's bruised and broken where the image has been marred.
(Light the second Advent candle.)

And I feel his breath upon me and he whispers, "follow me". And he grants the fire within me and says "Let it shine for all to see."
(Light the third Advent candle.)

He walked among the lonely and the poorest of the poor. He gave his life to save us. He lives for evermore.

(Light the fourth Advent candle.)

Like a flicker in the darkness comes a Mother's desperate cry, then a baby's voice in answer brings the coming of the light.

(Light the center Advent candle.)

Leader: Light a candle in the darkness.

MUSIC *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*

Hearing God's Word

* HYMN #31 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* "Mendelssohn"

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:1-20

MUSIC *Chorus from "Judas Maccabaeus"*

ANTHEM *Wake, O Shepherds!* Jean Philippe Rameau
The Children's Choir

Wake, O Shepherds, hear the story of the Babe in Bethlehem.
Angels fill the sky with glory like a heav'nly diadem,
And sing a song loud and clear of praise to the Lord of heaven,
The Father, almighty King.
The Lord above, the Lord of love has sent to the earth a Savior!
His glory forever sing!

Shepherds, up, and hasten yonder to adore the King of love.
Kneeling there in awe and wonder, blend your hymns with those above,
And sing a song loud and clear of praise to the Lord of heaven,
The Father, almighty King.
The Lord above, the Lord of love has sent to the earth a Savior!
His glory forever sing!

Our Response to God's Love

WORSHIPPING THE LORD THROUGH OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY SOLO *O Holy Night* Adolphe Adam
Arr. J. Ch. Hess

* THE DOXOLOGY v. 6, #56, The Hymnal

**Then let us all with one accord Sing praises to our heavenly Lord.
That hath made heaven and earth of nought. And with His blood our life hath bought.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.**

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

* CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

**Dashing through the snow in a one-horse open sleigh,
O're the fields we go, laughing all the way.
Bells on bobtail ring, making spirits bright,
What fun it is to ride and sing a sleighing song tonight.
Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way.
Oh what fun it is to ride in a one horse open sleigh!**

MUSIC *O Christmas Tree*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

* HYMN #40 *Joy to the World* "Antioch"

MUSIC *Carol of the Bells*

Candle Lighting

* HYMN 60 *Silent Night* "Stille Nacht"

Going Forth in God's Love

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE "Antioch"

* Those who wish to do so are invited to stand

Silent Night, Holy Night

Joseph Mohr Franz Xaver Gruber

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 Saviour is born
Christ, the Saviour 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

Silent night, holy night
Wondrous star lend thy light
With the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King
Christ, the Saviour is born
Christ, the Saviour is born.



If you can deliver a poinsettia to a shut-in, please take one from the sanctuary *after* the 11 pm Christmas Eve Service tonight and a shut-in card from the table in the library. Thank you for sharing Christmas joy with our at home members.

The church office will be closed from now until January 4, 2009.

If you have an end-of-year pledge it must be mailed & received by the church by 12:00 noon on December 31 . All offerings received after that will be credited to 2010.