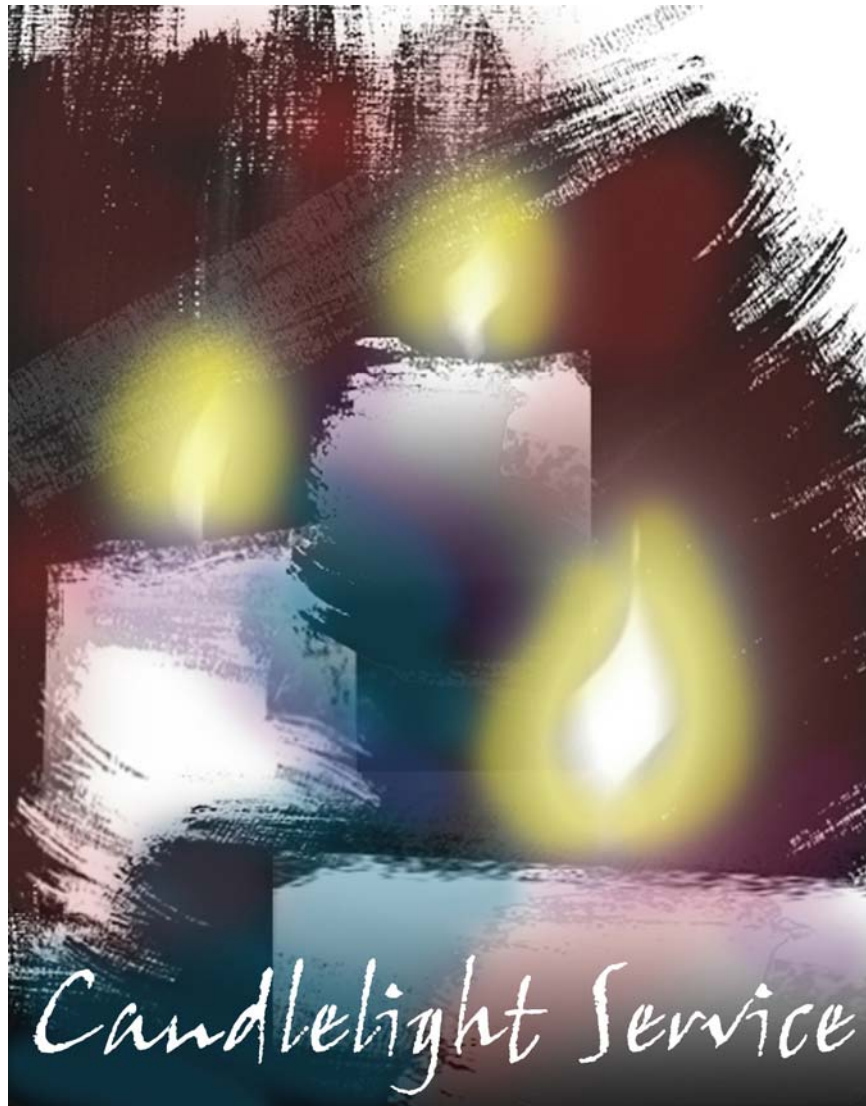


CHRISTMAS EVE



11:00 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

10:45 PM PRELUDES

“The Virgin’s Lullaby”

arr. Norman Dello Joio

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

arr. Norman Dello Joio

“Noel: Christmas Eve 1913”

Lee Holdridge

A frosty Christmas eve when the stars were shining, I traveled forth alone where westward falls the hill and from many, many a village in the darkness of the valley, distant music reached me, peals of bells a-ringing.

Then sped my thoughts to olden times, to that first of Christmases when the shepherds who were watching heard music in the fields, and they sat there and they marveled, and they knew they could not tell whether it were angels or the bright stars a-singing.

But to me heard afar it was starry music, the singing of the angels, the comfort of our Lord, words of old that come a-traveling by the riches of the times, and I softly listened as I stood upon the hill.

“Lullaby”

Johannes Brahms

Lullaby and good night with roses bedight,
With lilies o’erspread is baby’s wee bed;
Lay thee down now and rest, May thy slumber be blest,
Lay thee down now and rest, May thy slumber be blest.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

Silent Night

arr. Samuel Barber

Entering God’s Presence

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Let us prepare to welcome our God!
A distant star glinting in an indigo sky:

People: Come, Jesus Come.

Leader: A blazing beacon lighting up the way:

People: Come, Jesus, Come.

Leader: An energizing sun brightening a gloomy day:

People: Come, Jesus, Come.

* HYMN #41

O Come, All Ye Faithful

“Adeste Fideles”

THE PRAYER OF APPROACH

SILENCE & AMEN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Leader: We live in a world oppressed by sin, a world of hunger, pain and injustice.

People: We acknowledge that we are part of this world and have not always played our part in confronting the darkness and bringing the light of Christ to troubled places.

Leader: We are part of the Body of Christ, a Body which is broken by the sin of its members.

People: We recognize that we belong to the broken body of Christ. That our lives are touched by the sin of others and that our sin touches their lives.

Leader: We are unique individuals created in the image and likeness of God.

People: We confess that we do not live up to God's dreams for us: that where God says: "Let there be light!" we fear to come out of the shadows. Where God says: "You are salt for the earth", we rest content with blandness. Where God says: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you" we live estranged from God, afraid of the power of God's love for us.

KYRIE ELEISON (Congregation & Choir)

#572, The Hymnal

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

THE DECLARATION OF PARDON

John Dillon

* THE RESPONSE IN PRAISE

#579, The Hymnal

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be;

World without end. Amen. Amen.

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.

Hearing God's Word

* HYMN #38

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

"Carol"

SCRIPTURE:

Luke 2:1-20

CAROL BY THE CHOIR

What is This Lovely Fragrance?

Old French Carol

arr. Healy Willan

What is this lovely fragrance wafting like to the scents of flowers in spring! Shepherds, O tell us, whence such beauty, hear you not heavenly caroling? What is this light so fair, so tender breaking upon our wondering eyes? Never the Morning Star so radiant followed his course o'er eastern skies. Shepherds, O haste with eager footsteps seek the Saviour, born today. Low at His feet we lay our treasures, heart's adoration, love for aye. Shepherds, O haste with.

SCRIPTURE:

John 8:12-15

CAROL BY THE CHOIR

In Bethlehem A Wonder

Early Folk French Carol

arr. Hermann Schroeder

In Bethlehem a wonder is born a Child for me; And when this gift I ponder, His own I wish to be. O little child, be to me more precious than before, in happy times or gloomy I wish to love You more. True God, I now discover You in my flesh and blood; gladly I bind me over To you, my highest Good.

Our Response to God's Love

MESSAGE

"Yet Another Hierarchical Official Order"

John Dillon

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

(Please partake of the communion elements as you receive them.)

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.

WORSHIPPING THE LORD THROUGH OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY

Hush, My Babe, Lie Still and Slumber

Jody W. Lindh

Hush, my babe, lie still and slumber, in this stable poor and drear, Hear the wind blow cold and bitter, Sheep and oxen standing near. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Bright the winter stars are shining, Angels from the heavens sing. Shepherds gather, lost in wonder, Wise Men kneel, their gifts to bring. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

May your sleep be sweet and peaceful, May you rest now, Heavenly Boy; Child of blessing, Child of Promise, Be our Hope, our Peace, our Joy. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

* 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

* HYMN

Night Has Fallen

Chewa Hymn, translated by T. Colvin

1. Solo: Night has fallen
**All: Night has fallen
God our maker, guard us sleeping.**
2. Solo: Darkness now has come,
**All: Darkness now has come.
God our maker, guard us sleeping.**
3. Solo: We are with you, Lord,
**All: We are with you, Lord.
God our maker, guard us sleeping.**
4. Solo: You have kept us, Lord,
**All: You have kept us, Lord.
God our maker, guard us sleeping.**
5. Solo: See your children, Lord,
**All: See your children, Lord.
God our maker, guard us sleeping.**
6. Solo: Keep us in your love,
**All: Keep us in your love.
God our maker, guard us sleeping.**
7. Solo: Now we go to rest,
**All: Now we go to rest.
God our maker, guard us sleeping.**

Candle Lighting

* Hymn *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (see insert)

* Hymn *Silent Night, Holy Night* (see insert)

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE *In Dulci Jubilo* J.S. Bach

* Those who wish to do so are invited to stand

Many thanks to The Sanctuary Choir, Brenda Luger, Flute; Gwen Harris, Nancy Hodges, Piano; Jon Courtney, Baritone; Patricia Kelby, Mezzo-soprano and Director Judie Brown for tonight's special music.



If you can deliver a poinsettia to a shut-in, please take one from the sanctuary after worship 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.