

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF WORSHIP**

December 24, 2017 · 8:00 PM

(\*) Those who are able, please stand

Large print hymnals and wireless hearing aids are available; ask an Usher

CARILLON Skip Briggs

WELCOME

[PRELUDE](#) "Pastorale" Zipoli

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Scaccia Family  
Unison Prayer: **Risen Christ, Light of the world, shine in our lives and shine among us now.**

\*CAROL "O Come, All Ye Faithful" No. 41

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison) Leader: Evan Griffith  
Invitation  
Unison Prayer

**God of Love Incarnate, we confess that,  
with the shepherds, we are terrified of your glory;  
for in glory's light we see plainly all that is wrong in the world:  
how oppression still enslaves;  
how garments of war are still stained with blood;  
how those seeking refuge still find no place of safety.**

**We also see what is wrong in us:  
how passionately we pursue the things of this world,  
but forget to ponder the mystery of faith;  
how we do not practice the peace you intend  
in our relationships, our community, or even in the church.**

**Forgive us, we pray, and help us not to be afraid.**

**Like the shepherds, we want to follow and find you.**

**In the Savior's name we pray.**

Silent Confession  
Declaration of Pardon  
Sharing God's Peace

\*CAROL "O Little Town of Bethlehem" No. 44

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL READING Luke 2:1-20  
"The Word of the Lord / Thanks be to God!" NT Pew Bible Page 44

[ANTHEM](#) "Night of Silence" Daniel Kantor

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 9:2-7  
"The Word of the Lord / Thanks be to God!" OT Pew Bible Page 494

CHILDREN'S STORY Pastor Sam

[SERMON](#) "We Are Loved"

\*CAROL "Angels We Have Heard on High" No. 23

\*CHRISTMAS LITANY

Leader .... Loving God, For you animals prepared a bed

**People .... For you the heavens shone brightly  
and the stars clapped their hands**

Leader .... For you angels sang to help calm your crying

**People .... For you shepherds stood watch  
and marveled at how small you were**

Leader .... For you wise ones came running from the east,  
and when they saw you,

**People .... They fell down on their knees because you were  
Almighty God and yet you were so vulnerable**

Leader .... You were God and yet you had a soft spot on your head

**People .... God with Mary's milk on your breath,  
wrapped up in swaddling clothes**

Leader .... God, creator of everything,  
now born of flesh and blood to be with us

**People .... Emmanuel, God with us**

Leader .... Hope is ours

**People .... Peace is on the way**

Leader .... Sorrow has lost its grip

**People .... Love has flooded every heart**

Leader .... Emmanuel, God with us

**People .... Light has come back into the world**

Leader .... And the darkness of despair, and war, and hurt,  
and hate shall not overcome it

**People .... Tonight you are with us and we will never be the same**

Leader .... We will be more tender

**People .... We will protect the vulnerable**

Leader .... We will stand watch

**People .... We will come running to soothe the pain,  
to befriend the lonely, to lift up the lowly**

Leader .... To live as your people, to walk with you in love

**People .... We pray all of this in the name of Emmanuel, God with us**

Leader .... In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

OFFERING

Invitation

[Offertory Music](#) "What Child Is This" arr Guaraldi  
Guests: Laura and Ron D'Angelo

Song of Praise "What Child Is This" # 53 (v3)  
**So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh, Come peasant, king to own Him;  
The King of kings salvation brings, Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!**

Prayer of Dedication

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Each communion bread tray has a dish of rice cake pieces for those who avoid wheat products

Invitation to the Table

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord be with you / **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts / **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

... Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name ...

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest**

The prayer continues and concludes with The Lord's Prayer (using "forgive us our debts")

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

CAROL "Silent Night" Remain Seated

(As the flame is being passed, hold the lighted candle erect to avoid dripping wax)

**Verse 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*

**Verse 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*

**Verse 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*

**Verse 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*

\*BENEDICTION – concluding with

Pastor: God is good

**People: All the time!**

[POSTLUDE](#)

Postlude on "Joy to the World"

arr Ore

*Thank you to Skip Briggs for providing Carillon Music; to our Usher Team; led this evening by Dave Scaccia; to our Worship Recorder, Jay Fish; to our Deacon at the Ramp, Bonnie Herter and to Laura & Ron D'Angelo for their musical contribution*

Our Christmas Wreaths Hanging at the Court Street Entrances  
Are Given In Memory of  
**Mr. & Mrs. Haydn Lewis**  
By Their Loving Family

Our Memorial Advent Wreath  
Is given in Loving Memory of  
**Hazel Wooding**  
By Her Daughter, June Sperlik

A Memorial Christmas Sanctuary Wreath  
Is Placed in Honor of  
**Vera Noxon**  
For Her Long Service to Our Church Family

A Memorial Christmas Sanctuary Wreath  
Is Placed in Loving Memory of  
**Robert & Barbara Henderson**  
by Jim & Pam Henderson