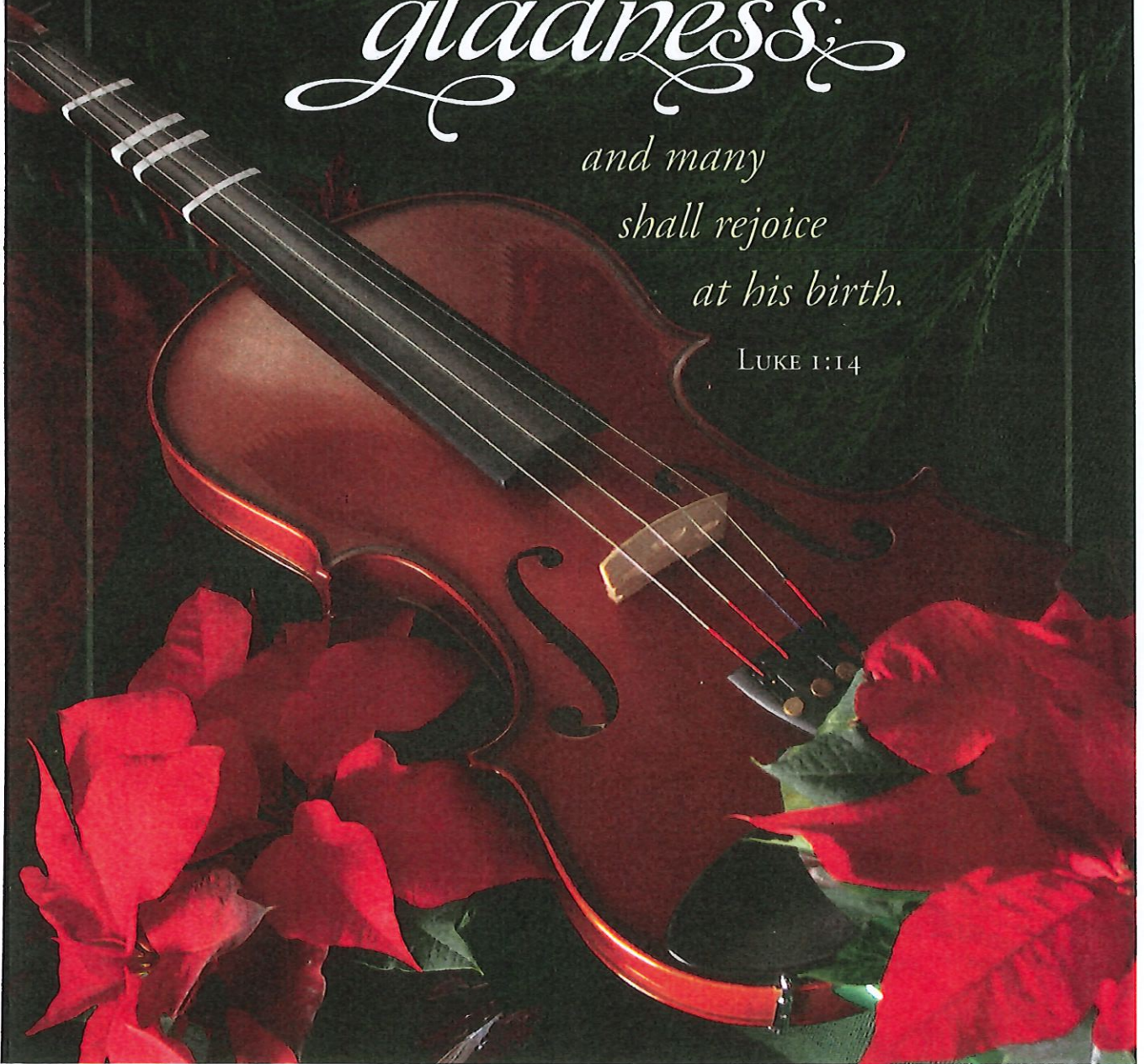


Thou shalt have
Joy and
gladness;

and many
shall rejoice
at his birth.

LUKE 1:14



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

December 24, 2023

5:00 P.M.

Preludes

O Little Town of Bethlehem arr. Timothy Shaw

O Come, O Come Emmanuel arr. Marshall McDonald and Steven Sharp Nelson

Carol Wooldredge, *cello*

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly arr. Kevin McChesney

Sanctuary Ringers

Variations on Noël Nouvelet arr. Matthew Zabiegala

*Call to Worship

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

People: *Those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined.*

Leader: The light shines in the darkness.

People: *And the darkness did not overcome it.*

Leader: For Christ is born in Bethlehem.

People: *Come, let us adore him.*

*Processional Hymn 133 (vv. 1, 3-4)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

(see insert)

Words of Welcome

Opening Prayer

*Hymn 113

Angels We Have Heard on High

(see insert)

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (responsive)

Leader: Dear God, forgive us for the way we ignore you and do whatever we want to do.

People: *Lord, have mercy on us.*

Leader: Forgive us for the times we are so busy about ourselves that we have no time for others.

People: *Lord, have mercy on us.*

Leader: Forgive us for the way we close our hearts to your love, your grace, and your hope.

People: *Lord, have mercy on us.*

All: *Open our hearts to your love, our ears to your words of grace, and open our hearts to your signs of hope all around us. Amen.*

Assurance of Pardon

*Indicates that the congregation will please rise, in body or in spirit.

***Hymn 113** (refrain)

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Prayer for Illumination

Lesson from the New Testament: Titus 2:11-14

Page 215

Anthem

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
Chancel Choir

arr. Mack Wilberg

Lesson from the Gospels: Luke 2:8-14

Page 58

Sermon "Born to Be Extraordinary"

The Reverend Dr. Ellen C. Clémot

***Christmas Affirmation** (in unison)

We believe that God has come to us as a little child, making our weakness his strength, securing our salvation by becoming one of us, filling our hearts with joy to be shared with one another. We believe that God has birthed righteousness and justice into the world, giving us a law that will be written upon our hearts, making the cause of the oppressed the highest priority, declaring an everlasting reign of peace. We believe that God calls us to participate in this reality of love, inviting us to proclaim Christ's resurrection at the Table, sending us forth to announce his kingdom of peace and comfort, challenging us to see everyone as nothing less than beloved children. This we believe. This we seek to embody in word and deed. Amen.

***Hymn 119**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

(see insert)

Call to Offering

Offertory

O Holy Night
Matthew Zabiegala, soloist

Adolphe Adam

***Doxology**

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

Christmas Prayer (in unison)

God of all glory, we give you thanks this night that Christ has come into the world once more. We rejoice in knowing that our Advent waiting has come to an end, your promise of a Messiah has been fulfilled, and the light of life still shines bright in revealing your love. With the joy of the season now at hand, we ask you to pour your Christmas grace into our hearts and give it substance in our thoughts, our words, and our deeds as we seek to follow the One in whose name we pray, Jesus Christ, the newborn King. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer "debts . . . debtors"

Hymnal, Page 35

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

The ushers will share their light with the congregation. Please tilt your unlit candle towards the flame when lighting it. Once it is lit, hold it in an upright position to reduce the dripping of hot wax.

Hymn 122 (seated) (vv. 1-3, 1) Silent Night, Holy Night! (see insert)

*Benediction

***Hymn 134** (vv. 1-2, 4) Joy to the World (see insert)

As we celebrate the birth of our blessed Savior, we carry the light of Christ in our hearts. For safety, we ask that you extinguish your candle before departing the sanctuary. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe journey home.

Postlude We Three Kings arr. David Harris
Brass Ensemble

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WELCOME! We are delighted you've chosen to worship with us on this special Christmas Eve. Please let an usher or minister know if we can assist you in any way. Our sanctuary is equipped with an induction loop system for those with hearing difficulties.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS are presented in honor of all those who make Christmas such a beautiful, meaningful celebration at PCCT, by the Skinner Family.

THE POINSETTIAS AND GREENS in our chancel have been contributed by many to the Glory of God and in memory or in honor of family and friends. Specific names are on the flyers in the lounge.

OUR MUSIC FILLED SANCTUARY! Thank you to all who so generously donated to our music program and helped fill our sanctuary with beautiful music throughout our Advent season.

THANK YOU to all who are ushering and greeting today. Special thanks to our Tech Team.

A TIME OF UNITY AND CELEBRATION: As we gather with loved ones and celebrate the joyous spirit of Christmas, consider making a heartfelt gift. Your contribution to the Christmas Offering today helps PCCT thrive, making every tomorrow brighter. Let's rejoice in the spirit of giving!

ANNUAL MEETING AND WINTER BREAKFAST: January 28, 2024—Save the Date!



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O Come, All Ye Faithful 133

1 O come, all ye faith-ful, joy-ful and tri-um-phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e-ter-nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an-gels; sing in ex-ul-ta-tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap-py morn-ing; Je-

ye; O come ye to Beth-le-hem! Come, and be-hold him,
 of a vir-gin, a mor-tal he comes; ver-y God, be-
 all ye cit-i-zens of heaven a-bove! Glo-ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo-ry given; Word of the Fa-ther,

Refrain

born the King of an-gels!
 got-ten, not cre-at-ed!
 glo-ry in the high-est! O come, let us a-dore him; O come, let
 now in flesh ap-pear-ing!

us a-dore him; O come, let us a-dore him, Christ, the Lord!

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

TEXT: John Francis Wade, c. 1743; trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, alt.
 MUSIC: John Francis Wade, c. 1743; luum. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

ADESTE FIDELES
 Irregular

113 Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some ti - dings be which in - spire your heaven - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - ol Glo

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

ri - a in ex - cel - sis . De . ol

119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!

Peace on earth and mer-cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - cited!"
 late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful; all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car-nate de - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

Hark! The her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

Silent Night, Holy Night! 122

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing
 with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

GERMAN

1 *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!*
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

KOREAN

1 *고요한밤 기록한밤*
어둠에 묻힌밤
주의부모 앉아서
감사기도 드릴때
아기잘도 잔다
아기잘도 잔다

SPANISH

1 *¡Noche de paz, noche de amor!*
Todo duerme en derredor,
entre los astros que esparcen su luz,
bella, anunciando al niño Jesús,
brilla la estrella de paz,
brilla la estrella de paz.

The tradition that this carol's tune was created for guitar accompaniment at its first singing on Christmas Eve 1818 seems reliable, though a recent find shows that the text was about two years old. But there is no question that this is now a favorite Christmas carol worldwide.

TEXT: Joseph Mohr, 1816; stanzas 1-3, English trans. John Freeman Young, 1863;
 stanza 4, English trans. Jane Montgomery Campbell, 1863, alt.
 MUSIC: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818
 Korean Trans. © The Christian Literature Society of Korea

STILLE NACHT
 Irregular

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and
 sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.
 heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt. ANTIQCH
 MUSIC: Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742; an. Lowell Mason, 1836 CM with repeat
 (alternate tune: RICHMOND, 266)



Merry Christmas Everyone!

As we gather to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus, we are so happy to welcome in all of you near and far, friends and family of this wonderful church in Chatham. We hope you will enjoy every moment of our worship service from Christmas carol singing, to prayers and candle-lighting, and thoughtful reflection on the story of that Holy night in Bethlehem so long ago. We are grateful for all of you in this church family, newcomers and seasoned regulars. Thank you for all you do to share God's Love with the world. May Christmas Day dawn for you in splendor, hopefulness, and abundant joy.

*From the Session and Staff
of the Presbyterian Church of Chatham Township*