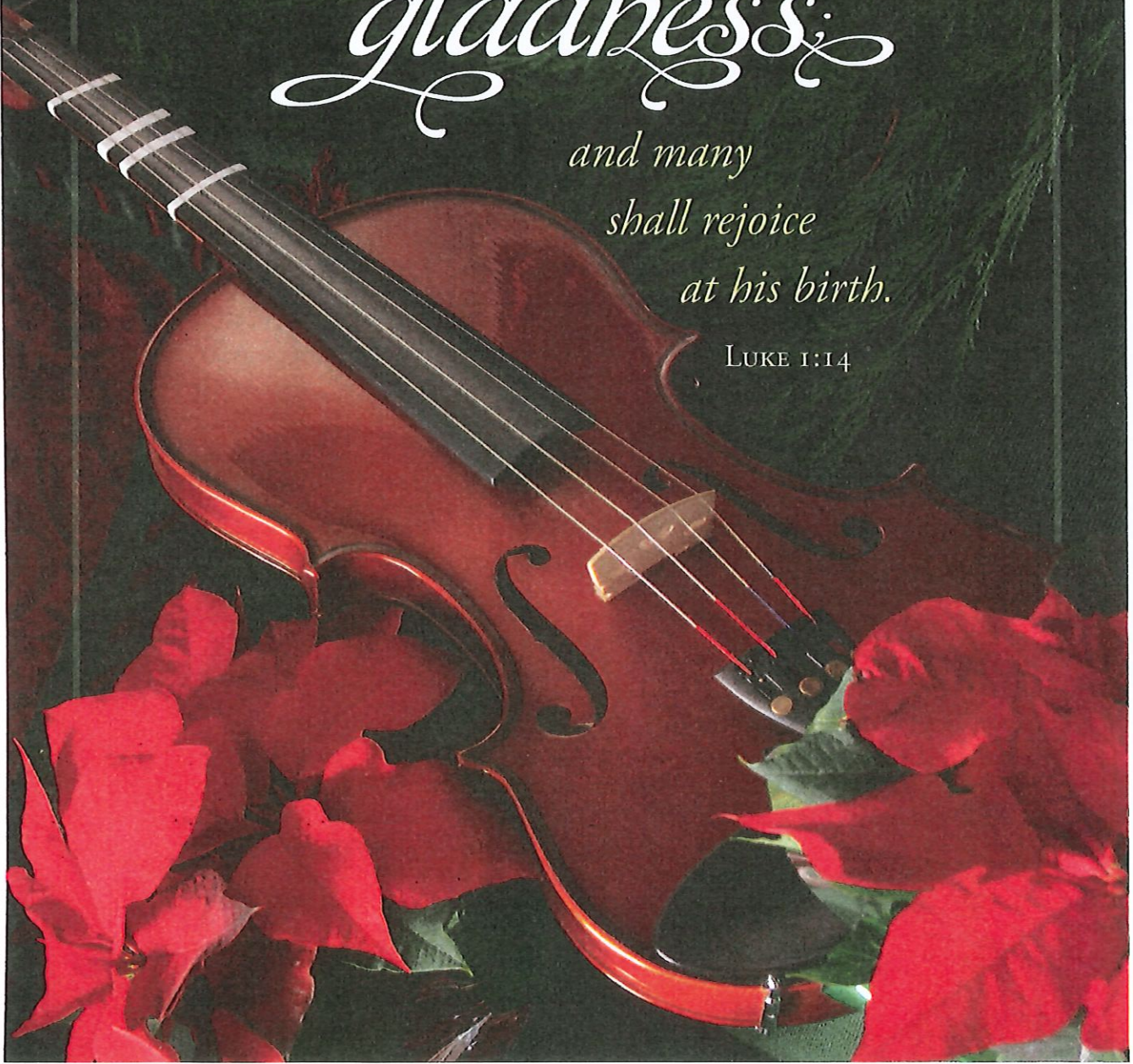


*Thou shalt have*  
*Joy and*  
*gladness;*

*and many*  
*shall rejoice*  
*at his birth.*

LUKE 1:14



# CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

December 24, 2024

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*  
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming arr. Kevin McChesney  
Sanctuary Ringers  
Variations on Noël Nouvelet arr. Matthew Zabiegala

## \*Call to Worship

Rev. Thom Schuman

Leader: On this holiest of nights,

People: *We come, joining the shepherds who are stunned by wonder.*

Leader: On this most silent night,

People: *We come, our hopes and dreams joining those of Mary and Joseph.*

Leader: On this night of carols and candlelight,

People: *We come, our glad songs joining with the choirs of angels over us.*

## \*Passing of the Peace

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you!

People: *...and also with you.*

Leader: Let us exchange a sign of peace with one another.

## \*Processional Hymn 133 (vv. 1, 3-4) O Come, All Ye Faithful

(see insert)

## Opening Prayer

## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession (in unison)

*O God, in the beginning you spoke, and creation was born, the object of your loving care. In the fullness of time you spoke, and the Word became flesh, Jesus, gift of your love. We wonder at the miracle of creation; we stand in awe before the mystery of the incarnation. Forgive us earthbound creatures, feeble in faith, empty of hope, lacking in love. This year let the miracle and mystery of Christmas happen for us again. We wait upon you with ready hearts, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

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



## 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)*

**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 the minister know if we can assist you in any way. Our sanctuary is equipped with an induction loop system for those with hearing difficulties.

**OUR WORSHIP LEADERS** this evening are The Rev. Thomas A. Brown and The Zehner Family.

**THE CHANCEL FLOWERS** are presented to the Glory of God and in celebration of the Christmas season, by the Brummer 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.

**CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS** - In your pews you will find two special Christmas offering envelopes, one that helps PCCT in our ministries and one (Christmas Joy) that supports retired clergy and provides education support for minority students.

**SONGS OF WITNESS; SONGS OF WORSHIP** - Join us Sunday, Dec. 29 at 10 am for an exploration of four well-known Christmas Carols. We'll hear the stories about how and why the songs were written and sing several verses from each.

**DINNER CHURCH:** Wednesday, January 15, 6:00 - 7:15 pm in Mulford Hall.

**ANNUAL MEETING AND WINTER BREAKFAST:** Sunday, January 26, 2025

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### Wishing You and Yours a Very Merry Christmas

As you go out from worship this night, may the presence of the Christ-child remain in your heart, filling it to overflowing with hope for our world and love for all with whom we share our earthly home. The blessings of God go with you, dear friends, and inspire in you acts of great mercy. In praise to the One who has come,

The Session and Staff of the Presbyterian Church of Chatham Township



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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! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let  
 glo - ry in the high - est!  
 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.



The First Nowell

1 The first Now-ell the an-gel did say was to cer-tain poor  
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star shin-ing in the  
 3 And by the light of that same star three wise men  
 4 This star drew nigh to the north-west; o'er Beth - le -

shep-herds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keep-ing  
 east be - yond them far; and to the earth it gave  
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was their  
 hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop

their sheep, on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.  
 great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.  
 in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.  
 and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.

Refrain

Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell,

"Nowell" is the English form of the French "noel," a shout of joy formerly used at Christmas (as in Chaucer's "Franklin's Tale"), a clue that the word is older than its first printing. It may have Latin and French roots related to "born" (*natus / nē*) as well to "news" (*nova / nouvelle*).

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

Musical score for the phrase "born is the King of Israel." The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "born is the King of Is - ra - el." The melody is simple and homophonic, with the bass line providing a steady accompaniment.

- 5 Then entered in those wise men three, 6 Then let us all with one accord  
full reverently upon their knee, sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
and offered there in his presence that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
their gold, and myrrh, and and with his blood our life hath bought.  
frankincense. *Refrain*

# 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 - ciled!"  
 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.



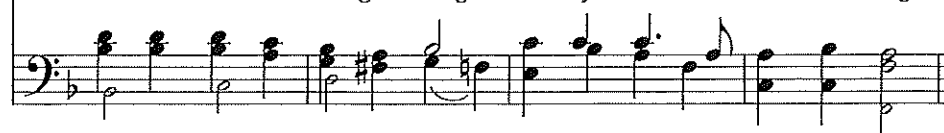
Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car-nate de - i - ty,  
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



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.



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 거룩한밤  
 어둠에 문헌밤  
 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.

134

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,

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.