



THOMPSON MEMORIAL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



3:30 pm Christmas Eve Family Service
December 24, 2023

Welcome to Thompson Memorial Presbyterian Church Christmas Eve Family Service. This service is intended for children and families to enjoy and participate in a lively manner. Please experience noise and activity as part of our joyous anticipation of the birth of Jesus Christ.

*Please stand in body or in spirit

WELCOME

Pastor Stephanie Templin Ashford

PRELUDE

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES
Dorothy Fine

INTRODUCTION TO THE CHARACTERS

Shepherds, Sheep, Angels, Magi, Stars

SPECIAL MUSIC

Sing We Now of Christmas

Children's Choir
Arr. by Mark Patterson

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The McGettigan Family

Tonight, we tell the story that we tell every year—the story of Christ's birth, the story of love made flesh. It's a story that weaves through every generation. It's a story that picks up the bits and pieces of our narrative and braids us together.

The candle of hope reminds us that there's room for every story.
(The candle of hope is lit)

The candle of peace reminds us that God meets us in our fear.
(The candle of peace is lit)

The candle of joy reminds us that we can choose a better way.
(The candle of joy is lit)

The candle of love reminds us to see God in each other.
(The candle of love is lit)

At the center of our hope, our peace, our joy, our love is God - who came to this earth to dwell among us. So tonight, we light the Christ candle, for God's love just could not stay away.

Congregation:

We join our voices with the angels, shepherds, and magi who celebrate the birth of Jesus - Emmanuel - God who is with us and loves us. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.



SPECIAL MUSIC

Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head

Children's Bell Choir
Arr. by Cathy Moglebust

The Christmas Story

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank you that you are Emmanuel, God is with us. On this Christmas Eve, we are excited to celebrate again that you have come to be with us. As we hear your Christmas story, help us to open our hearts so that you can live in us, tonight and every night. Amen.



***CAROL** *Away in the Manger (vs. 1,2)*

Reading - Luke 2:1-7

(Children who would like to be Sheep or Shepherds are invited to come forward)

CAROL *What Child Is This? (vs. 1- 3)*

Reading - Luke 2:8-9

(Children who would like to be angels are invited to come forward)



CAROL *Angels We Have Heard on High (vs. 1-3)*

Reading - Luke 2: 10-14

CAROL *Hark the Herald Angels Sing (vs. 1,2)*

Abby R.

Reading - Luke 2:15-19

(Children who would like to be Magi (wisemen) & Stars are invited to come forward)

CAROL *We Three Kings of Orient Are (v. 1-2)*

Reading - Matthew 2:7-12



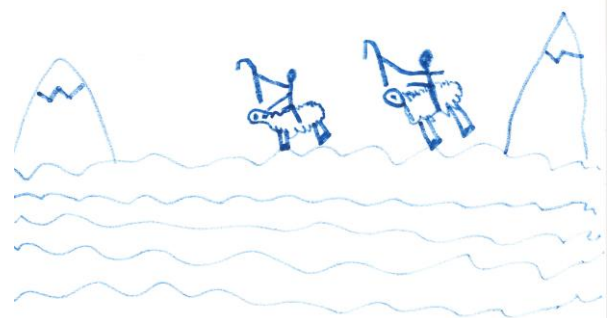
CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERING *Mary's Boy Child* By Bill Stauffer

Reading - Matthew 1:22-23

PARADE OF CHARACTERS

(While the song is sung, children will parade out of the room to take off their costumes)



CAROL *Go, Tell It on the Mountain (vs. 1-3)*

SCRIPTURE John 1: 1-5, 14

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

As the lights are dimmed, the minister will take light from the Christ candle and pass it to the ushers who will carry the light from row to row. Please share the light with those around you by tipping the unlit candle toward the lit candle.



***CAROL** *Silent Night! Holy Night! (vs. 1-4)*

STILLE NACHT

***THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

With thankful hearts...

Gracious God, we are glad Jesus lived among God's children, young and old. He showed love for all people by helping everyone who came to him. For Jesus:

We give thanks this Christmas Eve.

He taught us to love our enemies and to be forgiving. For grace:

We give thanks this Christmas Eve.

He taught us to feed the hungry, help the poor, to be a friend to the stranger and to visit the sick. For the invitation to serve:

We give thanks this Christmas Eve.

He taught just to gather and pray. For worship:

We give thanks this Christmas Eve.

He taught us to tell the story to every generation.

We give thanks this Christmas Eve.

For pageants and nativities, trees and wreaths,

We give thanks this Christmas Eve.

For all of our blessings and most of all the blessing of Jesus,

We give thanks this Christmas Eve.



(Please extinguish your candles)

***CAROL** *Joy to the World! (vs. 1, 4)*

ANTIOCH

***BENEDICTION**

Merry Christmas!



Zach

BY ANDREW KIRBY



Merry Christmas!

Many thanks to all who helped make this special service wonderful and meaningful. Thank you to the youth and students who participated this evening. We express our gratitude to Michelle Baker and Paul Mongillo for playing the role of Mary and Joseph and to Theo for playing the role of baby Jesus, and his dedicated brother Lucca Mongillo. Thank you to all who helped tell the Christmas Story and to the children who submitted artwork for the Christmas Eve Bulletin. Thanks also to members of our youth group who helped lead the service and to Patricia Murphy who led in singing the carols and to Dorothy Fine, who played the organ/piano and Bill Stauffer for his musical/technical support for the services. Thank you to our ushers this evening.



Our Christmas Offering

This year's Christmas Offering will go to the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen. TMPC has enjoyed a long partnership with TASK. Most recently we handed out over 300 hooded sweatshirts for their Christmas giveaway and our folks help twice a month serving meals at their facility. TASK offers food service, but also addresses systemic poverty through ESL classes, job training and wraparound services. Your offering tonight will go to support these services.

Christmas Day

December 25, Christmas Day Worship & Brunch
11:00 am Brunch in Fellowship Hall

December 31, Worship Service
9:00 am – Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
11:00 am – Contemporary Worship in the Fellowship Hall

January 7, The Epiphany and Communion
9:00 am – Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary
11:00 am – Contemporary Worship Service, Fellowship Hall

UPCOMING EVENTS AT TMPC

ACT 2 LUNCH & LEARN Come and meet Rich Timmons who will share his coffee table book featuring 67 paintings telling the story of Jesus of Nazareth. Salad Bar Lunch \$10.00. Books will be available for purchase on Wednesday, **January 10**, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm in Fellowship Hall.

MLK DAY OF SERVICE Join us on Monday, **January 15** from 9 am – 1 pm for a day of service. We take action to care for those who are hurting, both in our community as we choose to grow, learn, and listen to how to be a more unified people. We will eat a delicious breakfast, hear thought-provoking speakers, complete service projects and get to hear the Mad Beatz Drumline perform. Sean McFadden, the new director of Urban Promise will be our keynote speaker. If you would like more information, or sign up, or help, please see www.tmpc.org/mlk. The team would like to purchase t-shirts for our participants. If you would like to help defray that expense let Melissa Mantz or Pastor Stephanie know.

JAZZ WORSHIP SERVICE Join us on **January 28** for 9:00 am a one service only featuring our Jazz Worship Service in Fellowship Hall.

CHURCH LIFE & MEMBER CARE

PRAYERS FOR HEALING AT HOME George Brandenburg, Pat Castiglione, Marlene Clark, John Donahue, Frank Gatto, Pam Mills, Josh Nemzoff, Lisa Palise, Bucky Pope, Meredith Power, Nancy Quanstrom, Elinor Raike, Brenda Redfield, Jim and Susan Revie, Tom Thatcher, Holly Tomkovitz, Doris Wessner *If you have someone to add to our prayer chain, please send your request to Alison Yearley at apybobba@aol.com.*

ONGOING OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

TRENTON AREA SOUP KITCHEN (TASK) TMPC will be going to TASK on **December 28** to give out gifts to those served at the facility in Trenton from 9:45 am -1:00 pm and meet at TMPC parking lot to carpool at 9:15 am. Email Chuck Green for more information.

MEALS FOR FISHERMAN’S MARK Our next meal for Fisherman’s Mark will be on Tuesday, **January 9** at 8:30 am in Fellowship Hall. Please sign up by using the Signup Genius to donate food items, to help prepare the meal, or to donate funds to cover the increased costs of the main dish. See the sign up link in e-news and on our website.

TMPC FOOD DRIVE Your contributions are a blessing to our needy neighbors in Lambertville, Trenton, and Morrisville. **WE NEED YOUR DONATIONS NOW MORE THAN EVER!** Our monthly food drive is on **January 17** from 10:00 to 10:30 am. You can bring items in ahead of time. The sign up is available in our e-news or www.tmpc.org/events.

TMPC’S BABY JESUS HISTORY

- 2023 Theo Mongillo
- 2022 John Jeffrey “JJ” Salt
- 2021 Layna Heckman
- 2005 Hannah Kraus
- 1980 Jackie Robbins



Scan here for one time giving, link to our website, for upcoming events or subscribe to our weekly e-news.



Venmo to: @give2tmpc
This will be treated like a cash donation unless we can easily match your venmo name with a name in our donation database.



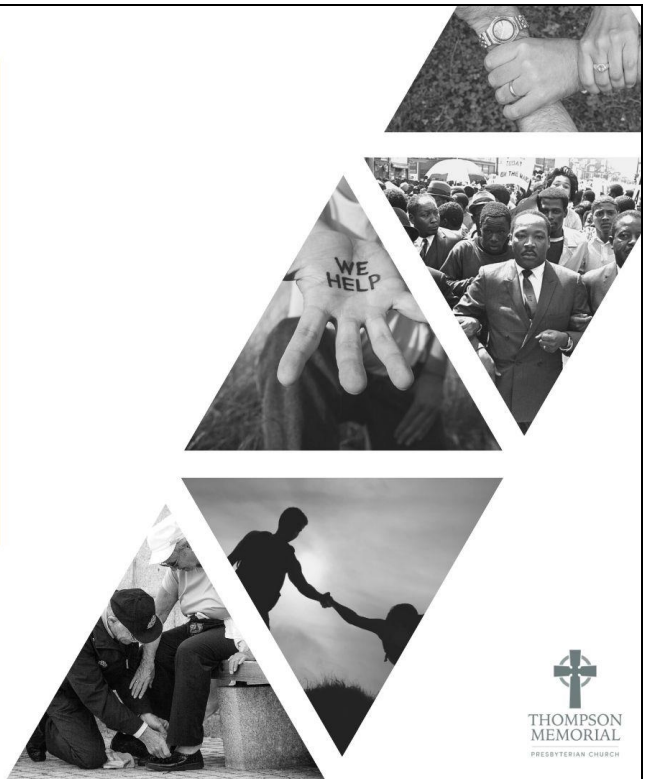
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Teaching Elder/Sr. Pastor (<i>Sabbath: Monday</i>)	Stephanie Templin Ashford
Teaching Elder/Associate Pastor (<i>Sabbath: Friday</i>)	Bailey Heckman
Administrative Assistant.....	Melissa Bottelier
Music Director.....	Patricia Murphy
Contemporary Music Director & Youth Director.....	Bill Stauffer
Organist/Accompanist	Dorothy Fine
Accounting.....	Laura Kandziolka
Sexton.....	James Daily
Business Administrator (Volunteer).....	Sue Schaub

MLK DAY OF SERVICE

JANUARY 15, 2024

9:00 AM-1:00 PM




THOMPSON
MEMORIAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



WARREN COOPER

Sacred Jazz Ensemble

JANUARY 28

9:00 AM


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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

