



THOMPSON
MEMORIAL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



December 24, 2023
Lessons & Carols Candlelight Service
7:00 pm Christmas Eve

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Welcome to worship on this most sacred night. Whether you have worshiped here for years or this is your first time with us, our greatest prayer is that you feel the presence of God in this place.

Throughout worship, we invite you to stand where there is an asterisk and to join us in the liturgy printed in bold.

If you need to use the restrooms, they are located just outside the Sanctuary, up the stairs to the right or down the hall to the left.

During this worship service we will enjoy a time of candle lighting. Please be sure to hold your candle upright while it is lit and allow unlit candles to tilt toward already lit candles. This will prevent wax from dripping.

OUR SUNDAY SERVICES

Our 9:00 am worship service is a traditional service with hymns and liturgy held in the Sanctuary. Please follow along and respond when the type is bold and stand, as you are able, when there is an asterisk. All of our services are live streamed and are recorded and can be found on www.tmpc.org to view at any time.

Our 11:00 am worship service is a contemporary service with praise music. This worship service is held in our Fellowship Hall.

We are glad to share in your faith journey!

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

PRELUDE

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

Dorothy Fine
J. S. Bach

WORDS OF WELCOME & PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Stephanie Templin Ashford

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Kouveras 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.

**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.

*CAROL NO. 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful (vs. 1,3)

ADESTE FIDELES

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Biblical readings about the birth of Jesus.

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 11: 1–3a; 4a; 6–9 Stephanie Templin Ashford

CAROL NO. 119 ***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (vs. 1,2)*** **MENDELSSOHN**

SCRIPTURE Matthew 1: 18-23

CAROL NO. 115 ***Away in a Manger (vs. 1, 2, 3)*** **MUELLER**

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:1-7

SPECIAL MUSIC *Labor of Love* Melissa Callans
By Andrew Peterson

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:8-20

CAROL NO. 113 ***Angels We Have Heard on High (vs. 1, 2)*** **GLORIA**

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 9: 2-4; 6-7

SERMON Stephanie Templin Ashford

ANTHEM *Love Has Come* TMPC TRIO

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Let There Be Peace on Earth* Dorothy Fine
Sy and Jill Jackson Miller

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SPECIAL MUSIC *Oh Holy Night* Peter Heckman
by A. Adam

SCRIPTURE John 1:1-5, 14

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

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 pew to pew. Please share the light with those around you by tipping the unlit candle toward the lit candle. You may extinguish your candle after the Lord's Prayer.

***CAROL**

Silent Night! Holy Night!

STILLE NACHT

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.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight:
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior is born!
Christ, the Savior is born!

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.

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.

THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

(Please extinguish your candle)

***CAROL NO. 134**

Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

***BENEDICTION**

Stephanie Templin Ashford

***POSTLUDE**

Ring, Christmas Bells

Dorothy Fine
M. Leontovich

**Those who are able, please stand.*

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 hundred 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.

Merry Christmas!

Many thanks to our readers, our ushers and to all who helped make this special service wonderful and meaningful. We express our gratitude to all our members and new faces joining us this evening. Thanks also to all those 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 music and technical talents.

Offices Closed

Offices will be closed from December 25 - January 1, however, staff will be checking voicemail and email for any emergencies.

Worship Services for 2023-24

December 25, Christmas Day Brunch

Brunch at 11 am in Fellowship Hall

December 31, Worship Services

9:00 am –Service in the Sanctuary

11:00 am-Service in the Fellowship Hall

Worship Services for 2024

January 7, Worship Service – The Epiphany

9:00 am –Service w/Communion in the Sanctuary

11:00 am-Service w/Communion in the Fellowship Hall

MLK DAY OF SERVICE

JANUARY 15, 2024

9:00 AM-1:00 PM



WARREN COOPER

Sacred Jazz Ensemble

JANUARY 28

9:00 AM

