

# St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve  
Rev. Rosemary McMahan  
Mavis Stephens, Choir Director

December 24, 2019  
Elder Nellie Gates, Liturgist  
Dr. Jeff Gilbreath, Pianist

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service, December 24, 2019

Prelude

Dr. Jeff Gilbreath

### Words of Welcome

### Lighting of the Christmas Candle – John & Shelly Shull

### Call to Worship

One: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Jesus Christ, the son of Mary, the son of God is born this night.

**All: God's word has been made flesh among us.**

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

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

One: You, O Lord, have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder.

**All: His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

One : He is also called Emmanuel, for in him God is with us.

\*Hymn of Worship

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

#139

### Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

*God of Joy, we come to celebrate again the arrival of Love Incarnate here in our very midst. Your glorious arrival is enough to cause the forests to sing for joy, yet we still find reasons to complain and sigh. Your light of salvation is bright enough to illuminate every corner of our lives, yet we still find ourselves shrouded in worry and doubt. Your gift of Love is big enough for the whole world, yet we still find ourselves resentful that your love extends to those whom we deem to be unworthy. God, you invite us into the light of the stable where the overlooked and forgotten have gathered to celebrate the miracle of your love. Give us the strength and courage to join you at the manger. Amen.*

Declaration of Forgiveness: Do not be afraid! Hear the good news of great joy for all people: a Savior has been born this night for you!

\*Gloria

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

#113

### Passing the Peace of the Christ Child

Solo

“Mary Did you know?”

Dr. Jeff Gilbreath

### The Word

Message for Children

Samantha Simmons

### Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:26-33, 38

Elder Nellie Gates

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-11

Rev. McMahan

The Message

“What the Angels Said”

Rev. McMahan

### Celebration of the Light

### Christmas Affirmation of Faith

***We believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem.***

***We believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town; and whose spirit still brings music to persons all over the world, in towns both large and small. We believe in the one for whom the crowded inn could find no room.***

***We believe in the one who the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand; whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts.***

***We believe in the one who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible: the one whose cradle was a mother's arms, who looked at all persons and made them see what God's love saw in them, who by love brought sinners back to purity and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.***

***We confess our ever-lasting need of God: the need of forgiveness for our selfishness and greed, the need of new life for empty souls, the need of love for hearts grown cold. We believe in Jesus, the son of the living God, born in Bethlehem this night, for me and for the world. This, we believe. Amen.***

### The Offering to the Christ Child

Hymn

“What Child is This?”

#145

## The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation - The Great Thanksgiving ~ Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion	“Silent Night” vss. 1, 2, 3	#122
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## Going Forth as Light-Bearers

\*Closing Prayer

*Closing Hymn	“Joy to the World”	#134
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*Blessing and Sending	Rev. McMahan
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Postlude	Dr. Gilbreath
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\*All that are able are invited to stand.

***Bold italic type indicates our shared response.***

### **To Our Visitors & Guests:**

Welcome! It is a blessing to have you in worship with us today. We warmly invite your participation in the worship, fellowship, and ministry of this congregation where everyone is welcome as God's child. There is a place for you here, and we are delighted to have you with us today.

Please join us for Bible Study on Sunday mornings at 8:45 and worship at 10:00. We have a potluck supper and classes each Wednesday beginning at 5:30 PM.

***May the peace of the Christ-Child fill your homes and hearts!***  
***Best wishes for a Merry and Blessed Christmas!***

### **Scripture Reading Luke 1:26-33, 38;**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

### **Luke 2:1-11**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn

son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

"A Candle is Burning" is by Sandra Dean, 1986. Music is "**Away In A Manger**" by James Murray 1887 (Public Domain)

**Verse 1**

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,  
a candle of hope in December's dark night.  
While angels sing blessing from heaven's starry sky,  
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

**Verse 2**

A candle is burning, a candle of peace,  
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:  
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;  
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.

**Verse 3**

A candle is burning, a candle of joy.  
A candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.  
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow  
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.

**Verse 4**

A candle is burning, a candle of love,  
a candle to point us to heaven above,  
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,  
for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.

**Verse 5**

We honor Messiah with Christ's candle flame  
Our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim  
O Come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night  
As God comes among us, the Christian's true light.