

4:30 PM
DECEMBER 24, 2024

Worship Service for CHRISTMAS EVE



WORSHIP LED BY CHILDREN

FOX CHAPEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*As a community of Christ's disciples, we joyfully participate
in Christ's mission of love and peace, transformation and hope.*

Welcome to Worship

Words printed in **bold** are for the congregation to speak in unison.

* An invitation to rise in body or spirit.

PRELUDE

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
O Come Little Children
In the Bleak Midwinter
Silent Night, Holy Night!

Mary Minor
Annie Minor
James Minor
Gretchen Oberlin

WELCOME

Rev. Ginger Thomas

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Jacob Bloom & Cody Speer

Beloved, today we welcome the Christ Child, the fulfillment of our joy, as we proclaim with the prophet Isaiah, "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

Christ our joy has come near. Emmanuel, God with us, has come to dwell with us as a tiny baby. "His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this" (Isaiah 9:7).

We light this candle as a sign of Christ coming to dwell with us, to live in the neighborhood of vulnerable humanity as a vulnerable child. May the light of Christ warm our hearts and light our way as we share the joy of God's salvation wherever we go.

CHOIR ANTHEM

O Come All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem! Come, and behold him, born the King of angels! O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

OPENING PRAYER

Ada Mol

O God of hope, inspire us with the message of this day. Help us to sense the presence of the heavenly host as we join them to celebrate the good news of Jesus' birth. O God, bless us as we worship that we may hear the angels' message and make room in our hearts for the Savior You sent. Amen.

THE ANGEL OF AMAZEMENT

Presley Ruggieri & Siena Trabant

**Scripture Reading
Reflection**

Luke 1:11-13, 18-20 (NT, pg. 56)

*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN 113

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains.
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Come to Bethlehem and see, him whose birth the angels sing.
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

THE ANGEL OF ACCEPTANCE

Bennet Link & Evelyn Oberlin

**Scripture
Reflection**

Luke 1:26-36 (NT, pg. 56)

THE ANGEL OF ASSURANCE

Penelope Gazarov & Mary Minor

**Scripture
Reflection**

Matthew 1:18-21 (NT, pg. 35)

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN 121**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell; O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

THE ANGEL OF ANNOUNCEMENT

**Scripture
Reflection**

Luke 2:8-12 (NT, pg. 58)

James Minor & Claire Rocha

THE ANGEL OF AFFIRMATION

**Scripture
Reflection**

Luke 2:13-15 (NT, pg. 58)

Nelly Harrison & Ada Mol

OFFERING

Please complete a connect card and place it in the offering plate.

Lainey Hart

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

While We Are Waiting, Come

Don Cason

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

THE ANGEL OF ALLEGIANCE

**Scripture
Reflection**

Selections from Matthew 2:2-12 (NT, pg. 2)

Vera Hart, Emery Trabant,
Brian Sackett, & Teddy Brubaker

THE ANGELS' MESSAGE TO US

Gretchen Oberlin

SHARING THE MESSAGE OF HOPE

Candle Lighting

Tilt your unlit candle into the flame of a lit candle to share the light.

***Hymn 122**

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, heavenly 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.

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

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Please deposit your candle in the bins provided in the Narthex.

Participants Today

Rev. Ginger A. Thomas, Co-Senior Pastor (ginger@fcpc.us)
Rev. L. Roger Owens, Co-Senior Pastor (roger@fcpc.us)
Rev. Lori Bass-Riley, Minister of Children and Families (lori@fcpc.us)
S.C. Toe, Minister of Music (sc@fcpc.us)
Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church Children's Choir
Howard Havlicsek, Audio Engineer
Jenny Clark, Livestream Producer (jenny@fcpc.us)
Don Moyer, Caretaker (don@fcpc.us)

Student Service Participants

Adeline Baginski, Jacob Bloom, Madelyn Bloom, Connor Boyd, Emma Boyd, Teddy Brubaker, Violet Eberhart, Will Eberhart, Penelope Gazarov, Sasha Gazarov, Eliza Gourley, Evelyn Gourley, Nelly Harrison, Lainey Hart, Vera Hart, Colton Heppenstall, Emma Heppenstall, Elliot Lesnik, Bennet Link, Annie Minor, James Minor, Mary Minor, Ada Mol, Evelyn Oberlin, Gretchen Oberlin, Claire Rocha, Lucas Rocha, Harper Ruggieri, Presley Ruggieri, Brian Sackett, Isabella Sackett, Cameron Speer, Cody Speer, Emery Trabant, Siena Trabant, James Trammell, Maya Trammell, Ashley Tucker, Whitney Tucker, Adelaide Wertz

Student Service Musicians

Ellis Clark, Claire Lesnik, Holden Link, Marleigh Marcussen, Mary Clare Owens, Corinne Sample, Maura Sample

Youth & Child Ushers

Henry Harrison, Pip Harrison, Bryson Datt, Ian Hellstern, Mia Stelitano, Matthew Bartolacci

The Comfort Space is available in Room 107 (next to the Nursery) to comfort or feed a child and watch the worship service via livestream.

HEARING DEVICES are available in the Sanctuary. Ask an usher for assistance.
If you have a hearing aid that has the T-Coil activated, please ask for a T-Coil neckloop receiver.

LICENSES CCLI License # 1238538; Streaming License # CSPL091436; One License # 737738-A

FOX CHAPEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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