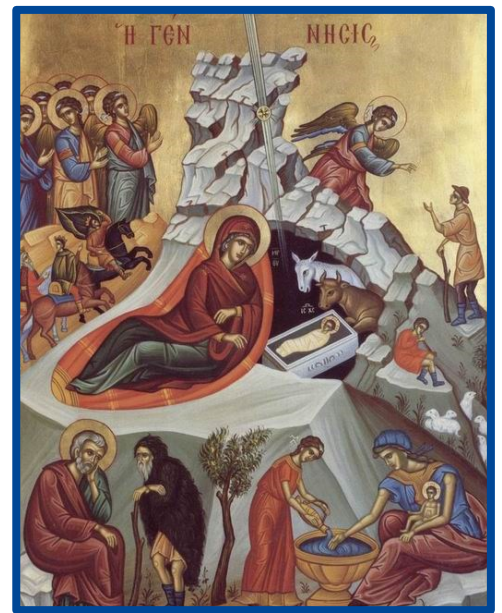


7:30 PM & 10:00 PM

DECEMBER 24, 2024

**Worship Service** for CHRISTMAS EVE  
TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP  
**FOX CHAPEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**



**Welcome to Worship**

Words printed in **bold** are for the congregation to speak in unison.  
\* An invitation to rise in body or spirit.

**PRELUDE**

**TOLLING OF THE CHRISTMAS BELLS**

**WELCOME AND INVITATIONS**

Rev. Ginger Thomas

**INTROIT**

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

On this day earth shall ring with the song children sing to the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to save us; him the Father gave us. Ideo, ideo, ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Rebecca DePoe

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

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

**Glory to God in the highest!**

For a child has been born for us, a Son has been given to us.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

He is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

To us is born in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

And the Word became flesh and lived among us.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

Christ is born! Give him glory! Christ has come down from heaven! Receive him! Christ is now on earth! Exalt him! O earth, sing to the Lord! O you nations, praise him in joy, for he has been glorified!

**Amen.**

**\*HYMN 133**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

**INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**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.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

People of God, through the coming of Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate, the Lord has comforted and redeemed us! In Christ we receive the salvation of our God!

**Thanks be to God!**

**\*GLORIA**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

*All are invited to exchange signs of reconciliation and peace with others.*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Isaiah 9:2-7 (OT, pg. 638)

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

Christmas Hymn

*arr. Hugo Jüngst*

While by my sheep I watched at night, glad tidings brought an angel bright:  
How great my joy; Joy! Joy! Joy!; Praise we the Lord in Heaven on high.

There shall be born, so he did say, in Bethlehem a child today:  
How great my joy; Joy! Joy! Joy!; Praise we the Lord in Heaven on high.

There shall he lie in manger mean, who shall redeem the world from sin:  
How great my joy; Joy! Joy! Joy!; Praise we the Lord in Heaven on high.

Lord, evermore to me be nigh, then shall my heart be filled with joy!  
How great my joy; Joy! Joy! Joy!; Praise we the Lord in Heaven on high.

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 2:1-14 (NT, pg. 58)

**\*HYMN 119**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*MENDELSSOHN*

**Hark the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king. Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful all ye nations rise; join the triumph of the skies; with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn king!"**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity, pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays His glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 2:15-20 (NT, pg. 58)

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

Prolepsis

Rev. Roger Owens

**\*NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic\* and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*\*catholic refers to God's universal church*

#### **PASTORAL 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.**

#### **OFFERING**

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

#### **OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

O Holy Night

*Richard A. Nichols*

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining; it is the night of the dear Savior's birth! Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till He appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn! Fall on your knees, Hear the angels' voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born! O night divine, O night, O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love; and His gospel is peace; Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother, and in His name all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we; let all within us praise His holy name. Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever and ever! His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim! His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim! O holy night, O night divine!

#### **SCRIPTURE READING**

John 1:1-5, 14 (NT, pg. 91)

#### **SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

*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**

Jesus is the Word made flesh in our midst. May his incarnation fill your hearts with joy and peace.

**O Lord, give us peace.**

Jesus is the promised Savior, born of Mary. May his birth among us renew your hope.

**O Lord, give us hope.**

Jesus is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. May the gift of his presence bring forth rejoicing.

**O Lord, give us joy.**

May Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

#### **\*HYMN 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.**

**\*POSTLUDE**

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

## Participants Today

Rev. Ginger A. Thomas, Co-Senior Pastor ([ginger@fcpc.us](mailto:ginger@fcpc.us))  
Rev. Dr. L. Roger Owens, Co-Senior Pastor ([roger@fcpc.us](mailto:roger@fcpc.us))  
Rev. Rebecca DePoe, Designated Associate Pastor ([rebecca@fcpc.us](mailto:rebecca@fcpc.us))  
S.C. Toe, Minister of Music ([sc@fcpc.us](mailto:sc@fcpc.us))  
Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir  
Howard Havlicsek, Audio Engineer  
Jenny Clark, Livestream Producer ([jenny@fcpc.us](mailto:jenny@fcpc.us))  
Don Moyer, Caretaker ([don@fcpc.us](mailto:don@fcpc.us))

## Instrumentalists

Joshua Huang  
Paula Tuttle  
Marissa Knaub Avon

## For Children and Families

Children of all ages are welcome to remain in worship with their families, and we provide the following opportunities for children and families at the 7:30 service:

**Nursery care** is available for ages 0-3 in Room 109 (near the main entrance).

**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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