



First Presbyterian

— R O M E —



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

December 24, 2021

4:30PM King Hall

God's People Gather for Worship

By God's grace alone and to his glory alone, we exist to worship God in his greatness and his holiness with Gospel-driven passion and integrity..." (excerpted from FPC Rome Mission Statement)

Gathering as God's People

Gathering Song

"Good Christian Men Rejoice"

Call to Worship

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

Jim and Ali Dent

John 1:1-14

All the candles represent Jesus who is the light of the world, but each has a more specific meaning. We began the Advent season by lighting the "Prophecy Candle" (Candle of Hope) to remind us of the promises and prophecies found in Scripture which God kept and fulfilled when he sent his Son Jesus into the world; followed by the "Bethlehem Candle" (Candle of Faith) to remind us of the place and circumstances surrounding Jesus' birth; followed by a lighting of the "Shepherds Candle" (Candle of Joy) to remind us that the message of Jesus' birth was first announced to "common" men who showed themselves ready to respond to the message of joy; on the final Sunday of Advent, we lit the "Angels Candle" (Candle of Peace) to remind us that the message of Jesus' birth was proclaimed from heaven and that what seemed to be a simple birth of a child has an eternal purpose: to call men and women into a relationship of forgiveness and peace with God. Finally, tonight, we light the "Christ Candle" to remember the birth of God's Son Jesus the Christ, who brings light and hope to a dark world through forgiveness of sins and the healing of our souls.

Song

"Come Thou Long Expected"

Come thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free
From our sins and fears release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, dayspring from on high, appear;
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of Thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing news, Glad tidings of a birth
Go to him, your praises bringing Christ the Lord has come to Earth

Come to earth to taste our sadness, He whose glories knew no end;
by His life He brings us gladness, Our redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all!

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit; rule in all our hearts alone
By thine all sufficient merit, Raise us to thy glorious throne

Confessing Our Sins and Embracing Our Forgiveness

Corporate Confession

Leader: O God, we need Christ to renew our commitment.

All: We confess that our lack of faith has made us fearful.

Leader: May your angels sing again to us of peace for body and soul.

All: We acknowledge that we have foolishly let our desires lead us astray.

Leader: May your star once more set our course firmly in your direction.

All: We have turned our faith into a lifeless ritual.

Leader: May your manger call us again to expressions of love and devotion.

All: We have carefully kept our gifts and have not freely given our goods and our hearts to you.

Leader: May the Magi show us the spirit of giving.

All: Lord, may your Spirit linger in our hearts and bring renewal in our lives. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Song

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

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 angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heav'n 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 as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of righteousness
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Offering Our Fellowship and Gifts

Peace and Greetings

Special Music

"O Holy Night"

Ms. Rose Hill

Hearing God's Word

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 55:1-3 ESV

Sermon

"A Greater Satisfaction"

Reverend Bill Pardue

The Candle Lighting Service

Leader: Jesus Christ is the Light of the World!

All: Whoever follows him will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

"Silent Night"

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! 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!

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.

Scattering as Christ's Church

Commissioning and Benediction



Today's Scripture

Isaiah 55:1-3 ESV

¹ "Come, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and he who has no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me;
hear, that your soul may live;
and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.



are given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory

Frances Davis, given by Rob Davis
Bill Davis, given by Rob Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Brewster, Sr., given by The Brewster Family
Anne Brewster Somerville, given by The Brewster Family
Jeff Cavaness, given by Jane Cavaness
Mary Lee Roberts, given by The Tim Morgan Family
David Morgan, given by The Tim Morgan Family
Ryan Davis Godfrey, given by Tracy Dupree and Family
Mike Easley, given by John and Peggy Cowan
Kaitlyn Cowan, given by John and Peggy Cowan
Charles and Bernice Cowan, given by John and Peggy Cowan
Robert Easley, given by John and Peggy Cowan
Dr. Tom, Mama Ann, Dick, and Bill Young, given by Rebecca Stegall
Dr. George R. Lee, Jr., given by Barbara Anita Lee
Barbara Bess Lee, given by Barbara Anita Lee
Nancy Elliot Lee, given by Barbara Anita Lee
Susan Thomas, given by Frances and Rob Edwards and Family
Anne Somerville, given by Frances and Rob Edwards and Family
Jeanne Wright, given by The Andrew Heaner Family
Gardner Wright, given by The Andrew Heaner Family
Rebecca Musser Hosea, given by The Hosea Family
Our Parents, given by Tom and Betty Carver

John and Jane Gates, given by Russ and Pam Gates
Ed and Janette Duke, given by Russ and Pam Gates
Charles and Rachel Bargainnier, given by Bill and Charla Brewster
Louise and Paul Steinhauer, given by William and Virginia Steinhauer
Helen and Wilford Morgan, given by William and Virginia Steinhauer
Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Berry, given by Anita Berry Lowden
James Enfield Berry, given by Anita Berry Lowden
William Daryl Dalton, given by Emery and Emily Katherine Johnson
Linda Hine, given by Sarah and Ben McElrath
Mr. and Mrs. James Herald Stanley (Pop and Deano), given by
Abby and Bobby Holcombe and girls
Betty Jo Holcombe (Mama), given by Abby and Bobby Holcombe and girls
Gerald Pyatte, given by Ashley and Dustin Banks
Amanda Campbell, given by Ashley and Dustin Banks
Lemuel Waters, given by Ashley and Dustin Banks
Jimmy Banks, given by Ashley and Dustin Banks
John Linn, given by Eleanor Linn
Emily Mayfield, given by Jane Storms
Martha Mayfield, given by Jane Storms
Patsy Mayfield, given by Jane Storms
Jeanne Lebkicher, given by Jane Storms

are given to the Glory of God and in Honor

Aaron and Lane Rice, given by John and Peggy Cowan
Tha Berry, given by Tom and Betty Carver
Libby Battles, given by Tom and Betty Carver
Martin Foster, given by Eleanor Linn
Carole Lawton, given by Eleanor Linn
Our Pastors & Staff, given by Anonymous

