

Worship Participants:

Heather Perryman, Dickie Green, Tom Gillespie, Ray Hayes, Mack Williams,
Suzanne Singer, Sally Clark, Jeanne Nostrandt, Jackson Weller, Leigh Blount,
Charlotte Garrett, Jackie Rochford, Kathy Dolianitis, Elizabeth E. Broschart,
C. B. Strange, Matvey Lapin and Katya Lapin.

Silent Night

**Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child**

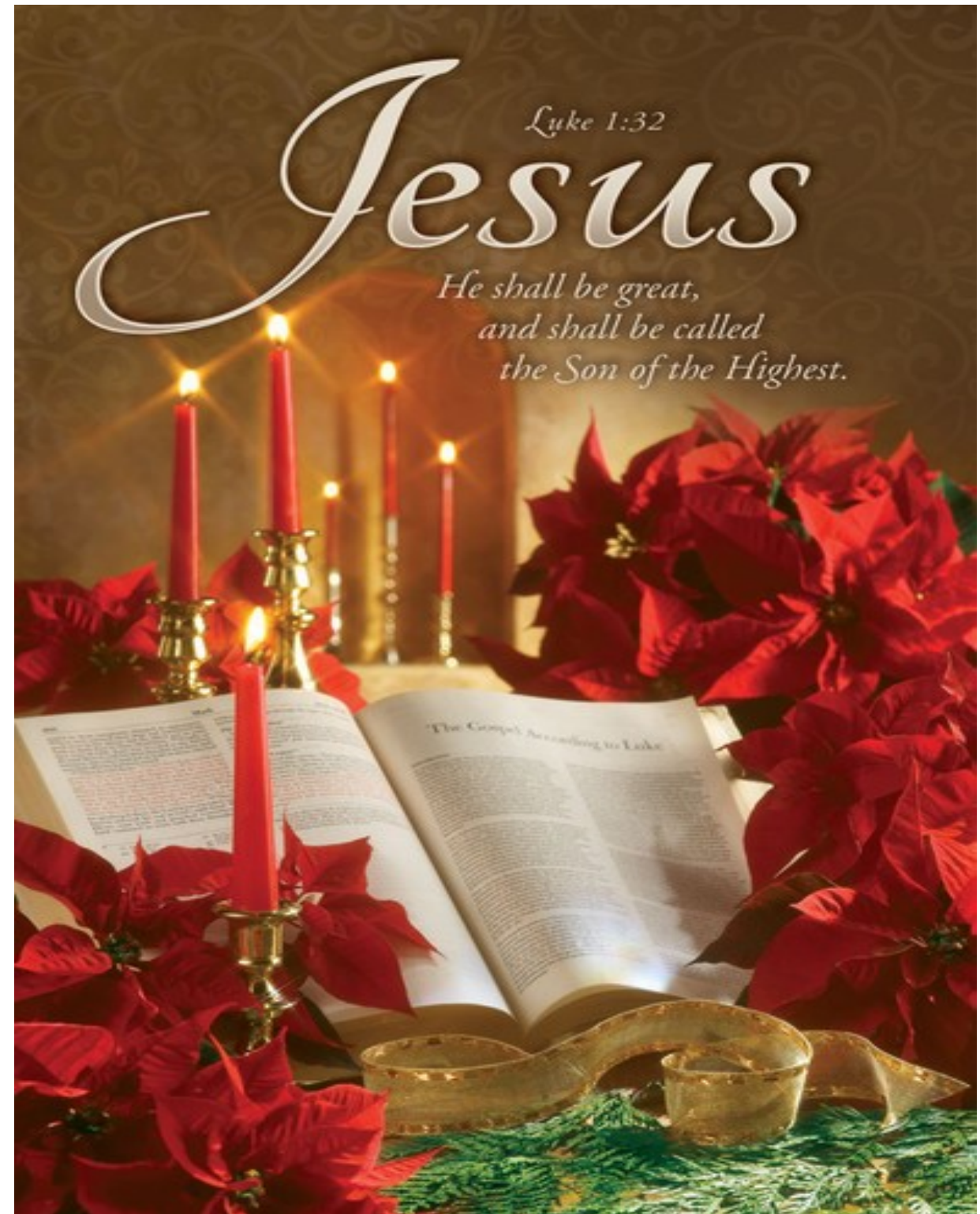
**Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace**

[Verse 2]

**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**

[Verse 3]

**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**



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—DANVILLE
CHRISTMAS EVE 2020

Welcome

Prelude *“Partita No. 3 in E Major: Gavotte en Rondeau”* by J. S. Bach
Matvey Lapin, violin/Katya Lapin, piano

Call to Worship

Rejoice, for God is with us — Emmanuel.

In the darkness of our world shines God's holy light.

Now there is reason to hope, to love, to laugh, to live.

God is truly with us. We are not alone.

Thanks be to God!

Hymn *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”* **GTG# 133**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” (GTG 133)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem
O 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!

Lighting of the Advent Candle Jay Hayes

Holy One,
we thank you for the glimpses we catch
of your gift of the depths of love
Even in the midst of fear,
of challenge, of struggle—
even when we aren't sure that
goodwill among us can be found,
ignite the flame of love within us,
**People: ... that we might glow with its brilliance
from the inside out.**

Merciful God, we confess that often we find darkness more comfortable than light. We confess that we find your good news frightening and unsettling, especially when we consider its demands as well as its promises. We confess that Christmas has become more to us than the birthday of the Christ, partly

“What Child is This?” (GTG 145)

What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is Sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherd's watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him, laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.

Meditation *“Christmas Imagination”* *Rev. Dr. E. Broschart*

Carol of Resistance *“O Holy Night”*

Benediction

Postlude *“The First Noel/Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas”*
Matvey Lapin, violin/Katya Lapin, piano

You are asked to move quietly from the sanctuary to the front of the church.

The procession will be led by Pastor Beth with the Light of Christ.

Please exit from front to back of sanctuary and maintain social distancing.

Candlelighting

Silent Night (see back page)

Handbell Benediction

Special thanks to Matvey and Katya Lapin for providing worshipful musical offerings this evening and for ministering to our congregation through the beauty of music.

because we do not want a Christ-Child in our lives or in our world. Forgive us, break us, bend us, remake us. Give us the courage to lay ourselves open to the wonder and healing of your coming. Be born again into our world, be born again into our hearts and lives. Hear now our silent and personal confessions as we prepare ourselves for your nativity.

Prayers in the Stillness

O take me to that secret place
where lost in wonder and in awe,
the moment comes and I rejoice
to be and be with God.

Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Be the air I breathe
Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Free me to receive

Sung Coda: Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Free me to receive,
to receive.

The true light that enlightens all has come into the world.
That light shines on in the darkness, and the darkness has never been able to put it out.
This is the good news: God has heard our confession. God has forgiven our sin.
Thanks be to God!

Scripture Reading
Anthem

Isaiah 11:1-9
“Creation Will Be At Peace” by Anna Laura Page &
J. Paul Williams

The Christmas Story

Luke 2: 1-20 (CEB)
In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. Since Joseph belonged to David’s house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David’s city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant.

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” (GTG 121)

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.

While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

“Away in a Manger” (GTG 115)

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed, the little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head. The stars in the sky look down where He lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord’s angel stood before them, the Lord’s glory shone around them, and they were terrified. The angel said, “Don’t be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David’s city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, “Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors.”

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing” (GTG 119)

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 th'angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King"

When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go right now to Bethlehem and see what’s happened. Let’s confirm what the Lord has revealed to us.” They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them.