

On this Christmas Eve we hope you've enjoyed familiar carols, hymns,
and traditional readings of the Nativity Story.

In addition to this special service, you are cordially welcome to join us
for our regular programs of worship,
Christian Education and fellowship.

If you would like to know more about our church family, speak with one
of the ushers or one of our pastors, the Rev. Scott Loomer and the
Rev. Dr. Martha Jordan

You can also visit us on our website:

www.covenantscranton.org



Covenant Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve 10:00 P.M. December 24, 2019

We welcome you to worship this holy night. This Christmas Eve we celebrate the story of Jesus' birth with brief Readings and Reflections.

May you experience the glad tidings of great joy which were first announced in Bethlehem. May you know the peace of God as we celebrate this Silent Night—Holy Night!

A Service of Carols and Candlelight

A Christmas Eve Prelude Noel—Grand Jeu et Duo *Louis Claude Daquin*
The Christmas Rose *Gilbert Martin*
Organ
Some Children See Him *Alfred Burt*

Rest Merry, Rejoice! *arr. Barbara Scheffter*
Angels We Have Heard on High *arr. Kevin McChesney*
Chancel Handbell Choir

A Welcome to All

*Processional Hymn "O Come, All Ye Faithful" *Adeste Fidelis*

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!
*Refrain: O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

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.

*The Blessing

*The Benediction

*Postlude

Toccata on Antioch

Craig Phillips

Participating in Tonight's Service

Rev. Dr. Martha Jordan, Associate Pastor
Dr. Timothy Smith ~ Organist/Director of Music

God's Sacrament of Love

Call to Communion

Words of Invitation and Institution

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Bread Broken ~ please receive as you are served.

Cup Shared ~ please hold to receive together upon invitation.

Anthem

“O Holy Night”

Adolph Adam

Catherine Carter, soprano

Communion Prayer

God's Love and Light

Passing the Light of Christ

(The organ will introduce the hymn, and at the pastor's invitation, all are welcome to join in singing as we pass the light of Christ from candle to candle. Please remember that the lighted candle remains upright, and the unlighted candle is tipped to the flame. Those with young children are asked to take special care. You are invited to keep candles lit until after we conclude singing, 'Silent Night', the Benediction is pronounced and the lights are turned back on.)

*Carol of the Light

“Silent 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 a-far, Heavenly hosts sing: “Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.”

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given; Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing!

(Refrain)

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation!

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

(Refrain)

The Call to Worship

Leader: The Word becomes flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

People: We have beheld His glory.

Leader: Glory to God in the highest,

People: and peace to God's people on earth.

The Opening Prayer

Lighting of the Christ Candle *Pamela Huddy, Frank Huddy, Ashley Krakowski,
Kimberly Huddy & Kirby Soloman*

The Prophecy

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

Anthem

Prepare the Way, O Zion

arr. Robert Lau

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!

Let every hill and valley a level way appear.

Greet one who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.

O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.

His rule is peace and freedom, justice, truth and love.

Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.

O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace.

His tidings of salvation proclaim to every place.

All lands will bow before him, their voices will adore him.

O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name. Prepare!

Chancel Choir

The Place

Micah 5: 2-4

Carol

"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.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,

While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!

And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.

The Birth

Luke 2: 1-7

Anthem

'Round the Glory Manger

Spiritual

arr. K. Lee Scott

They turn 'way Mary an'a Joseph 'way from the inn,

and that's what made the Glory Manger.

An'a Hallelujah Lord! Wasn't that a bright mornin' all 'round the Glory Manger.

They laid my pretty little Jesus down in the straw, and that's what made the Glory

Manger. An' all his pretty little fingers played in the straw,

and that's what made the Glory Manger.

Chancel Choir, Jenna Carmichael, soprano

The Announcement

Luke 2: 8-14

Carol

The First Nowell

First Nowell

The First Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star Shining in the east beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light, And so it continued both day and night.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

Christmas Message

"A Gift of Love"

Rev. Dr. Martha Jordan

Presentation of Our Christmas Offering

Offertory Anthem

Nativity Carol

John Rutter

Born in a stable so bare, born so long ago; born 'neath light of star
He who loved us so. *Far away, silent he lay, born today, your homage pay, for Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day.* Cradled by mother so fair, tender her lullaby;
over her son so dear angel hosts fill the sky. *Far away, silent he lay, born today, your homage pay, for Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day.*

Wisemen from distant far land, shepherds from starry hills worship this babe so rare,
hearts with his warmth he fills. *Far away, silent he lay, born today, your homage pay, for Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day.*

Love in that stable was born into our hearts to flow; innocent dreaming babe,
make me Thy love to know. *Far away, silent he lay, born today, your homage pay, for Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day.*

Chancel Choir