



Saint John's United Church of Christ, Orwigsburg
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 24, 2021 – 8:00 p.m.

Prelude *'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime - arr. Jason Krug*

Christmas Bell Tidings - Michael Ryan

Do You Hear What I Hear? – Noel Regney
Tracey Holler, flute & Christopher Holler, saxophone

O Come All Ye Faithful - arr. Dallas Blair
Andrew Johnson, Saxophone

†Call to Worship (*Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7*)

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.
On those living in the land of the shadow of death,
this light has dawned.

**For unto us a child is born, to us a Son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

†Opening Hymn *O Come All Ye Faithful*

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.

Sing choirs of angels, Sing in exultation.
Sing all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, Glory in the highest
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord we greet thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n.
Son of the Father, Now in flesh appearing;
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

† The Invocation

(Congregation may be seated)

Lighting of the Advent Candles and the Christ Candle

Susan McCartney and Tom Kramer

Musical Response *Here With Us - Joy Williams*
Ally Murphy, solo

The Gospel of Jesus Christ *Matthew 1: 18-23* Kay Jones

Musical Response *Advent Bell Carol - Douglas Wagner*

The Gospel of Jesus Christ *Luke 2: 1-7* Larry Kelly

† Hymn *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

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.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,

Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.
(Congregation may be seated)

The Gospel of Jesus Christ

Luke 2:8-14

Ethan Frantz

†Hymn

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 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 th’incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with man 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, 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.”

(Congregation may be seated)

The Gospel of Jesus Christ

Luke 2:15-20

Michelle Sterner-McNutt

Musical Response

Run Shepherd - Victor Johnson

Giving Our Gifts to God

† Prayer of Dedication

God of every good and perfect gift, we thank you for your greatest gift, your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

In this season when so many gifts are given and received, we pray that you will receive the gifts we offer now.

Use them according to your purposes and plans, bringing your good news of great joy to all people; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

(Congregation may be seated)

Pastor's Message *"The Light Still Shines"* Pastor Jeff

Song of Praise *O Holy Night* – Adolphe Adam
Christopher Brossman, solo

The Service of the Light

The Gospel of Jesus Christ *John 1:1-5* Pastor Jeff

† **Hymn** *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, 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.

† **The Christmas Blessing**

†Hymn*Joy to the World*

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 men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains. Repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy

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*Christmas Chimes - Dorothy Wells*

***Worship Leader:
Pastor Jeff Johnson***

***Blessings and Merry Christmas to you from St. John's
United Church of Christ in Orwigsburg.***