

First Presbyterian Church of Rolla
Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols

December 24, 2021, at 6 pm

Pre-Service Music: *The Wexford Carol* - Mark Hayes

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: *Noel Suisse* - Louis-Claude Daquin

Call to Worship

Good news! Great joy!

Jesus Christ is born!

Good news! Great joy!

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

CAROL: O Come, All Ye Faithful (G2G 133) vs 1 & 3

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory: through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Call to Confession

The holy child of Bethlehem came to cast out sin and to bring to us the gift of salvation.

Let us open our hearts to receive what God seeks to give.

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, you have come among us in Jesus Christ, hallowing our humanity and embodying love.

We confess that we have turned from the path Jesus has marked, failing to claim all you intend for us, withholding love from our neighbors and ourselves. Forgive us. Be born

anew in us, that our lives might reflect Christ's radiant light.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Peace on earth, mercy mild. God and sinners reconciled. This is good news!

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

The Christmas Story as found in Luke and John

Reading 1: Luke 2:1 – 7

CAROL: O Little Town of Bethlehem G2G 121 vs 1 & 2

Reading 2: Luke 2:8 – 11

CAROL: Away in a Manger G2G 115 vs 1

Reading 3: Luke 2:12 – 14

CAROL: Angels We Have Heard on High G2G 113 vs 1 & 3

Reading 4: Luke 2:15 – 18

CAROL: What Child is This G2G 145 vs 1 & 2

Reading 5: John 1:1-5, 14

CAROL: On This Day Earth Shall Ring G2G141 vs 1 & 4

Homily

Jonathan Kimball

Solo: The Holy Infant's Lullaby

Norman Dello Joio

Prayers of the People

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need. (*brief silence*)

Love proclaims that a Savior has been born to us! Inspire your church throughout the world to proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth to all who seek salvation, hope, and new life.

Merciful God **Receive our prayer**

Love whispers to a weary world that the time for rest and restoration has come. Maintain healthy cycles of wake and sleep for all creatures.

Merciful God **Receive our prayer**

Love cries to a warring world that the time for peace is at hand. Direct those in power who make decisions on behalf of others that they nurture and sustain all that is healthy, good, and holy.

Merciful God **Receive our prayer**

Love sings through the wails of a newborn baby. Respond to all who cry out in pain, despair, or need this night. Especially those we name in our hearts. (*pause*)

Bring comfort to those for whom separation, grief, or loss makes the Christmas season especially difficult. We remember all of those who continue to suffer loss from the storms just two short weeks ago this evening.

Merciful God **Receive our prayer**

Love murmurs words of comfort to a newborn child and exhausted parents. Bless new and expectant parents or caregivers, especially those who are alone or afraid this night. Pour out your love upon families of every kind.

Merciful God **Receive our prayer**

Rejoicing in your word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jess Christ, our Savior.

Amen

CAROL: Silent Night G2G 122 vs 1, 3, 4

READING 6:

On this holy night we contemplate the humility and tender generosity of God, who comes to us as a child and whose first bed is a manger. Almighty God, the creator of all, so overflows with love that God empties God's self and becomes one of us. Throughout Jesus' life, from his lowly birth through his crucifixion, he maintained this divine stance of self-giving love. Gazing at the infant Jesus, can we pray to share the mind of Christ so that we too come to love the world as God loves it and follow a way of life marked by humility and self-giving? Let us go out this evening to share the Good News of Jesus Christ's birth, life, and resurrection with all those we meet.

SENDING CAROL: Joy to the World G2G 134 vs 1 & 4

Benediction

The God of Hope fills us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Go in Peace, Live in Love, **Serve the Lord!**

Postlude: *Sing the Glad Song* - Franklin Ritter

Scriptures are read from the NRSV translation. Music presented by Lorie Francis and Jeff Sandquist. Worship led by Jonathan Kimball.

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