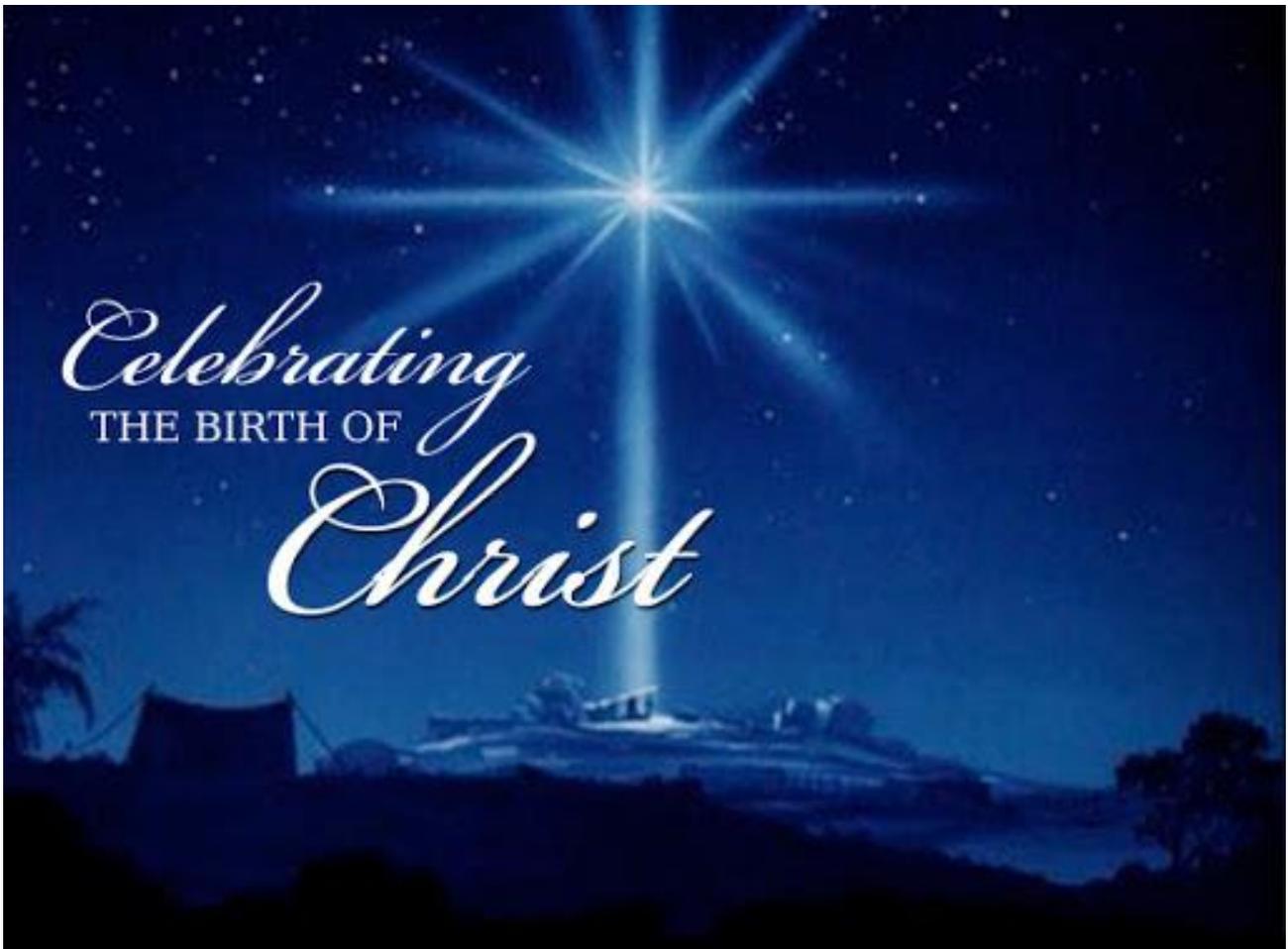


Prince of Peace Presbyterian Church

*A joyful community, gathered by God's grace,
sharing Christ's love with all.*



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2020

7:30 p.m.

PRELUDE

Christmas Eve Reverie
A selection of Christmas hymns and carols

“Stille, Stille, Stille” Austrian Carol
“Christmas Carol Medley” arr. Anderson
Ruth Andrasco, Carlene Craytor, Cory Gimperling, and Terry Puls, Bells/Chimes
“O Come All Ye Faithful” Adeste Fideles
Don Burleson, Euphonium

CHRISTMAS EVE GREETING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy Jesus, enter into our world and our lives with light enough to chase away sadness and fear. May your birth spark hope in the midst of despair, replace our frustrations and resentments with joy, and shine a healing light into the dark corners of our lives and our world. Reveal yourself to us in this time of worship, we pray, so that in the familiar story we will remember and experience the truth of your love and the transforming power of your grace. Let this truly be a holy night so that we may glorify you forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Anticipating the Messiah
Isaiah 11:1-9

SECOND LESSON

The Angel Gabriel Visits Mary
Luke 1:26-35

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

“O Holy Night” arr. De Cesare
Carolyn Kuffel, Cello

THIRD LESSON

Joseph Has a Dream
Matthew 1:18-25

FOURTH LESSON

The Birth
Luke 2:1-7

CAROL (GTG) 121

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” (St. Louis)
Verses 1, 2, and 4

FIFTH LESSON

The Angel and the Shepherds
Luke 2:8-20

SIXTH LESSON

The Wise Men Follow a Star to the King
Matthew 2:1-12

OFFERING PRAYER OF DEDICATION

MUSICAL INTERLUDE "Away in a Manger" Mueller
Ruth Andrasco, Carlene Craytor, Cory Gimperling, and Terry Puls, Bells/Chimes

A CHRISTMAS STORY "Hope Bandits" Rev. Elizabeth D. McLean

CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Hope, peace, joy, and love. Four candles, four promises continually offered to us by God, and all of them manifest in this one we light tonight: the Christ candle. In Christ we find the hope of transformation, the peace that follows justice, the joy of self-fulfillment in community, and the love that encompasses us in all our diversity, empowering us to make our own unique contribution to this world. In Christ we find light and life, and the courage to be like him, answering his call and following in his footsteps. May the presence of Christ be with us and in us, that we may carry God's light and love into the world forever. Amen.

BLESSING

CAROL (GTG) 122 "Silent Night, Holy Night!" (Stille Nacht)
Don Burluson, Recorder; Carolyn Kuffel, Cello;
Ruth Andrasco, Carlene Craytor, Cory Gimperling, and Terry Puls, Bells/Chimes;
and Suzann Barthold, Organ

**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.**



Welcome to Prince of Peace Presbyterian Church!

If you are looking for a friendly church...

- † where you will be loved and accepted regardless of your age, class, race, ethnicity, gender identity, or orientation...
- † where you will be challenged to reflect on your beliefs, acknowledge your doubts, ask your questions, and grow in your faith...
- † where God's desire for compassion, healing, reconciliation, justice, and joy is preached...
- † where you are given the opportunity to put your faith into action through effective outreach ministries...

Then we hope to get to know you as a new friend at Prince of Peace. No matter who you are, or where you are in your life journey, you are welcome here! Join us and discover how much you are loved, how gifted you are, and how together, we can experience and share the kingdom of God here and now.

On behalf of everyone at Prince of Peace, WELCOME! We're glad you've found your way here today, and we hope you had a meaningful encounter with God while you were with us. Prince of Peace is a living faith community inspired by the Spirit of God, joyfully encouraging all and collectively committed to serving and caring for one another, praising God through worship, music, and mission, imparting to our children a love and understanding of Christ, welcoming all of God's people without prejudice or judgement, and growing together in numbers and in the likeness and grace of Christ.

If there is anything that we can do to make your visit more meaningful, or if there are any questions we can answer, please do not hesitate to let me know. I look forward to the chance to meet you following worship, and hope you will take a moment to introduce yourself.

Once again, welcome – we're glad you're here!

In Christ,
Pastor Elizabeth D. McLean

If you are in need of prayer, you may call Deacon Steven Kerry (410-279-6545) with your prayer request, and the Prayer Support Team will lift these concerns in prayer.

Tonight's liturgist is Cory Gimperling.

CVLI License #504276496, CCLI License #11384570, One License #P-729751

<i>The church office is open Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.</i>	
Pastor	Rev. Elizabeth D. McLean
Parish Associate	Rev. Dorothy LaPenta
Director of Music	Suzann Barthold
Nursery Attendant/Teacher	Kyera Hooks
Office Administrator • Office Assistant	Susan Carmichael-Kerry • Amy Lindberg

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