"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviah which is Outiful the Lord!

Phristmas

- Luke 2:11

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# CUP EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



530 Blackhawk Rd. Beaver Falls, PA. 15010 724~843~1594 <u>cupepc.org</u> "Join us for a drink of Living Water"

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service December 24, 2024 Festival of Lessons and Carols

We welcome you to the worship of God Almighty this Lord's Day. It is our intention to bring glory and honor to Him. God enters our time of worship and we remember this time belongs to Him. Your Worship Commission

\*Please stand, if you are able. Nursery for children infant to 4 yrs. old is available upstairs in the Christian Education Wing (please see Usher for directions)

I do love Christmas. But at the same time, I sometimes find myself just wanting to get through Christmas Day intact and out the other side, back to normal life. Maybe you're the same. You find Christmas as stressful as you find it joyful. There's the stress of who you'll be with at Christmas, and who you'll disappoint. There's the stress of getting the presents (and batteries). There's the stress of how much food to buy, and when to put it in the oven, and trying to remember whether or not your auntie is still a vegan. And you find yourself thinking, 'If I can just get through Christmas, then things will go back to normal. 'But imagine if Christmas could be rescued from the stress or sadness of just getting through Christmas. Imagine if January could be rescued from the disappointment if your joy was in getting to Christmas. Imagine if there was a joy that lasted – that endured through January and that wasn't dented by reality. That would be worth finding, wouldn't it?

The people who experienced that first Christmas and understood its meaning found a joy that did not fade. So can you. Whether you're a get-to-er or get-through-er, if you get the meaning of the first Christmas this Christmas, then you'll get the feeling of joy, and find it's a feeling that lasts. -- Carl Laferton, from 'Rescuing Christmas'

Welcome and Announcements

**Opening Prayer** 

### Prelude

'Christmas'

~ Caleb Haas, piano

Call to Worship Leader: Behold! I bring you tidings of great joy! People: Unto you is born this day a Savior, which is Christ the Lord! Leader: Alleluia! ALL: Thanks be to God!!!

### Communion of the People

All who are Baptized regardless of church membership, and who understand the meaning of communion are welcome to receive.

## \*Lighting of the Candles

During the hymn, the pastor will light his candle from the Christ candle. He will light the elders candles who will then light each row. Hold your light upright allowing the person next to you to tilt theirs to light their candle.

## \*Carol #147

'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.

Fifth Lesson – Luke 2:16-20

Rev. Mark Simonds

\*Carol #125

'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. 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, wonders of His love.

\*Raising the Lights

\*Benediction Please lower your lights.

# \*Congregational Response

Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere, Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born! While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night, Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere, Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born! (*Please extinguish your candle.*)

Postlude

*Opening Carol #144 'How Great Our Joy' While by the sheep we watched at night, glad tidings brought an angel bright. How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy, joy, joy, joy! Praise we the Lord in heaven on high! Praise we the Lord in heaven on high! There shall be born, so he did say, in Bethlehem a Child today, How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy, joy, joy, joy! Praise we the Lord in heaven on high! Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!			*Carol #157 'Away In A Manger' Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head; the stars in the sky looked down where He lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, and fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.		
Traise we the Lord in neaven on high: Traise we th	ie Lord in neaven on nigh:		Fourth Lesson – Luke 2	2:8-15	Theresa Cunniff, Nursery
Lighting of the Christ Candle	The Si	monds Family	Scripture Reading	Ephesians 1:15-23 Leader: The Word of the Lord ~ People: Thanks be to God ~	Lg. print #1818/ pew #827 Lg. print/New ed. #1776
Special Music 'Pi	e Jesu' ~ Jale Haas	& Sue Brandt			
			Sermon	'He Reigns'	Rev. Mark Simonds
First Lesson - Isaiah 7:14-15Aiden Sutton, Crosscurrent*Carol #133'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 angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem! Hark! The hearald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King. Hail the heav'n 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.			Communion Hymn #145'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 heaven above!Glory to God, all 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!Invitation		
Second Lesson – Isaiah 9:2-7 Shirley Bardes Hasson, Deacon * Carol #132 'Angels We Have Heard on High' Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, And the mountains in reply Echo back their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo. Come to Bethlehem, and see Him whose birth the angels sing; Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.			<ul> <li>Words of Institution: The Great Thanksgiving Leader: The Lord be with you.</li> <li>People: And also with you.</li> <li>Leader: Lift up your hearts.</li> <li>People: We lift them up to the Lord.</li> <li>Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.</li> <li>People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.</li> </ul>		
Third Lesson – Luke 2:1-7   Bryce Copeland, Trustee		eland, Trustee	The Lords Prayer "Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."		