

Christ Church United Methodist

December 24, 2023

(live-streamed & in - person) 5:00 pm

Christmas Eve Order of Worship

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Eric Bryant

PRELUDE

Christmas Bell Medley
Carol Wellman, handbells
Shawn Dawson, piano

arr. Christine Anderson

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Lovett Family

First Reader: To a people on the journey, the prophet Isaiah declared, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined...For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Second Reader: Today, we come seeking hope, peace, joy, and love, and we find life for our journeys in a child. God made flesh as a baby in a manger.

All: We live as people on the journey of the in-between, celebrating the arrival of the Light that shines in lost and broken places and waiting for the day when we will live in the fullness of God's kingdom.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

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;

Hymn 234

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal, lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created; (Refrain)

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; (Refrain)

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)

CHILDRENS BLESSING

Rev. Amy Chapman

CALL TO PRAYER

Away in a Manger
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.

Hymn 217

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Leigh Ann Maynard

OFFERING

Our Christmas Eve offering recipients are the Portland Promise Center and Open Door Community Ministries

OFFERING OF MUSIC

Mid-Winter
‡Chancel Choir

Bob Chilcott

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below;
praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-20

Page 54 (NT) in the pew Bible
John Brunner

SERMON

Unwrapped

Rev. Dr. Eric Bryant

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

O Holy Night
Jody Gravatte, solo

Adolphe Adam

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION (*turn to page 24 in the hymnal*)

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

SPREADING OF THE LIGHT

Pifa (Messiah)
Shawn Dawson, organ

G. F. Handel

HYMN

Silent Night, Holy Night

Hymn 239

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.

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!

*CLOSING HYMN

Joy to the World

Hymn 246

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 world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

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.

SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

Postlude on 'Mendelssohn'
Shawn Dawson, organ

arr. David Willcocks

‡ Dr. Daniel Blosser, conductor; Daniel Light, piano

***Announcements are located on the following pages*

THIS MORNING

The flowers in the Chancel area have been given by Bill and Debbie Cook in loving memory of their daughter, Susan.

Christmas Eve Offering Recipients:

Portland Promise Center: For over 60 years, the Center has faithfully served the Portland neighborhood of Louisville, seeking to be a beacon of hope. Whether providing tax services, community dinners or running programs for our children, the mission remains the same: to enrich the lives of children and youth by meeting physical, educational and spiritual needs. Last year, we began a new early education program to help children before they ever enter Kindergarten.

Open Door Community Ministries: Open Door Ministries began by recognizing and meeting the need of providing meals, made with love, to share in Old Louisville. The program has now expanded to include a mobile clinic, resource center, recovery groups and dental clinic. The blessings that are experienced through the encounters with folks that walk through our doors create a profound, meaningful and lasting connection for all involved.

New Years Eve Worship | Sunday, December 31 | 10 am
Worship only. No Sunday School. Childcare is available for ages 5 and under.

We'd Love to Spend Time with You in 2024!

At Christ Church, 2024 is the year of Calling.
EACH of us is called by God to fulfill a unique purpose. Throughout 2024, we will explore that calling.

Calling

- January Sermon Series | *You Are Called*
 - Lent Sermon Series | *Called to...*
- *Called to Write* Weekend Workshop | March 15-16

Sanctuary Series Concert
Mozart Requiem | March 24 | 7 pm

Children, Youth and Family Ministries

- Youth Music begins on Sunday, January 7
- PSALM Kids begins on Wednesday, January 10
 - Winter Blitz | January 12 - 13
- Youth Group begins on Sunday, January 21
- Created by God (5th graders) | February 2 - 4
- PSALM Kids 3-5th Grade Musical | Sunday, April 28
 - Vacation Bible School | July 8 - 11

Bible Study

DISCIPLE Bible Study begins Thursday, January 11 | 11:30 am - 1 pm

Women's and Mom's Ministry

- Women's Ministry Gatherings | Tuesday, February 6 | 10 am - 2 pm & 6:30 - 8:30 pm
- Mom's Small groups, biweekly Pray & Playdates, Moms Night Out and more!

Men's Ministry

- Monthly Men's Breakfast | January 27

Overnight Marriage Retreat

NULU | February 23 - 24 | Registration open now!

Online Support Group for Grief and Loss of Any Kind
Mondays, beginning January 8 | 7 pm

Art Ministry

- Drop-in Art Studio | Wednesdays, January 10, 17, 24 and 31 | 6 - 7 pm
 - Sacred Worth *You are Beloved* Art Exhibit | Begins April 7

Serve

- American Red Cross Blood Drive | Tuesday, January 9 | 1 - 6 pm
- Summer Mission Trip to Dominican Republic | June 18 - 25

New to Christ Church? Looking to learn more? Join Rev. Dr. Eric Bryant and Rev. Amy Chapman for Christ Church Connect, Wednesdays, January 10, 17 and 24. ccum.net/connectclass

Online Ministry: Weekly Online Service | Sundays at 11:15 am | ccum.net/live

Join Senior Adult Ministry: Luncheon with Alanna Nash | Monday, February 12;
Outing Dare to Care Kitchen | Wednesday, February 28