

*Christmas Eve  
A Service for the Worship of God*



*Southminster Presbyterian Church*

**December 24, 2020 at 8:00 p.m.**

**PREPARATION**

*On Christmas Eve, we invite you to light your  
Christ Candle at home as we light it during worship.*

*If you have time, watch the following very brief video link before  
the worship service: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7vJPAQJAYig>*

*Notice what Linus does with his blanket.*

**Gathering Around God's Word**

**Prelude**

*Jim Pera*

**Welcome and Announcements**

*Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*

**Introit**

*"Celtic Christmas Lullaby"  
Vocal Ensemble*

*arr. Joel Raney*

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

*Mark and Liz Ferguson*

**Hymn # 133**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

*verses 1,3, and 4*

**Prayer of Praise and Adoration** (in unison)

*Andrew McKenzie*

Holy One, we come to adore you on bended knee, with hopeful hearts and eyes stretched wide with wonder. The gentleness of your gaze draws us into the mystery of all that lies beyond. In that place of falling into joy, we yield all that we are to you. Open our eyes to see, in Jesus Christ, your loving purposes. Stir within us the spirit of adoring praise.

Embracing God, in the quietness of this hour, touch our understanding with your Holy Spirit, that we may know and share your amazing love. Generous God, we are grateful for light in our darkness and hope for the world through a baby born in Bethlehem. With your help, we will strive to become bearers of your light and your peace. Amen.

**Response**

“Angels We Have Heard on High

*Hymn 113, verse 1*

**Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains.  
Glo...ria in excelsis Deo.  
Glo...ria in excelsis Deo.**

**Passing of the Peace**

*Andrew McKenzie*

**One:** The peace of Christ be with you.

**All:** *And also with you.*

**Hearing God’s Word**

**Prayer for Illumination**

*Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*

**Scripture Reading**

Isaiah 9:2-7

*Andrew McKenzie*

**Anthem**

“Mary, Did You Know?”  
*Dorian Arnold, soloist*

*Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene*

**Scripture Reading**

Luke 2:1-20

*Rev. Laura Nile Tuell*

**Hymn # 140**

“Once in Royal David’s City”

*verses 1,2, and 4*

**Sermon**

**“When Linus Drops His Blanket”**

*Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*

**Responding to God's Word**

**Anthem** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" *arr. Joel Raney*  
*Vocal Ensemble*

**Presentation of Offerings** *Rev. Laura Nile Tuell*

**Presentation Hymn #150** "As With Gladness Men of Old" *verse 3*

*As they offered gifts most rare,  
At Thy manger rude and bare;  
So may we with holy joy,  
Pure, and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ to Thee, our heaven-ly King.*

**Christmas Prayer** *Rev. Laura Nile Tuell*

**Anthem** "Cantique de Noel" *Adolphe Adam*  
("O Holy Night") *Cari Sullivan, soloist*

**"Silent Night"** *Hymn #122*

***As We Sing, We Will Watch the Candle Lighting on Video***

*After the Christmas Prayer, our tradition is for all of the people in the congregation to light their candles, passing the light from one person to the next while we sing, "Silent Night." Since we can't do that this year, we will be showing a video of some of our congregation members lighting their candles.*

**Charge and Benediction** *Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*  
*written by Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman (1899-1981)*

**Postlude** *Jim Pera*



***The poinsettias were given to the glory of God by the Worship Team.  
We wish all of you a very Merry Christmas!***