



SEVEN OAKS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 24, 2020 5:00 p.m.

Welcome! We pray that you will truly experience
God's love and grace as you worship!

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Zoom Worshipers: Once worship begins, please do not unmute yourselves. Zoom is very sensitive to sounds coming from our computers and to provide for the most fluid and clear worship experience for everyone, this is a small thing you can do to celebrate this worship opportunity!

PRELUDE

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Lewis Redner

CALL TO WORSHIP

written by Roddy Hamilton, and posted on Mucky Paws

One: When we wait in the night
in the hush that only stars can hold
as they bend towards the coming of the light;

All: when we wait in the night, laboring with anticipation of what midnight shall bring;

One: when we wait in the night, listening to the cadence of minutes beat in rhythm with the birth of hope;

**All: may we hold our collective breaths with the angelic host as they clutch their restless alleluias,
for God is on the way:**

One: the mother is laboring
the father pacing
the stable readying
the world is waiting
the light is sliding
And the promise is breaking through

**All: When we wait in the longing for midnight in expectation of Good News may we choose to wait
together and find we have moved to the edge of our seats**

One: for in such anticipation it is the only place for the Word to be born among us.

All: Let us worship the Lord!

CAROL:

Once In Royal David's City

**Once in Royal David's city, Stood a lowly cattle shed, Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for
His bed: Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all, And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall; With the poor and meek and lowly, Lived on earth our Savior holy.**

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Jana Creighton

CAROL:

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 bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

WELCOMING THE GUEST Our Christmas Affirmation Elders Banks and Polly Robinson

Reader One: Advent hope moves us; Advent love leads us; Advent joy stirs us; Advent peace stills us, that we might affirm our King Jesus.

Reader Two: It is time we set aflame to this Advent affirmation by lighting the Christ Candle.

Reader One: We believe that Jesus is the Son of God. He was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea. He was the long-awaited Messiah whose coming was prophesied. The same Jesus lives today in our hearts. He deserves our highest loyalty and total commitment. In Jesus Christ our hope is fulfilled; our love is consummated; our joy is complete; and our peace is sealed.

Reader Two: Rejoice, a Savior is born. A savior is born, indeed. Joy to the world!

CAROL: *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 heav'n 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!

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:1-14

MESSAGE

Rev. Jana Creighton

CANDLE LIGHTING

CAROL: *Silent Night, Holy 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! Son of God, loves pure light, Radiant beams form 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer

THE LORD'S 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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CAROL: *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.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; Let men their songs employ; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Poinsettias in Memory of loved ones:

Richard and David Allen, in memory of William Allen and Florence Allen.

Richard Brinkley, in loving memory of his wife, Irene Brinkley.

Anne Crook, in loving memory of Clyde Crook

Nickie & Byron Dickson in memory of our mothers, Mary Cathcart Dickson and Billie Jones Rowe

Linda Floyd, in memory of her husband, Dale Floyd.

Carol Griffith in loving memory of Joe Griffith

Ron and Sue Kesterson, in memory of loved ones.

Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer in loving memory of his son Jay.

Ben and Dallene Smith, in memory of their parents, Marián and John Dallas Patterson and Mary Jordan and B. M. Smith, Jr.

Jim and Elizabeth Taylor, in memory of Mr. Charles J. Bethea and Mr and Mrs. James P. Taylor.

Jim Wilhide, in memory of his loving wife, Joan



Poinsettias in honor of loved ones:

Margaret and Al Charles, in praise and thanks to God for sending His Son Jesus to save us.

Rev. Jana Creighton, to the Glory of God

Linda Floyd, in honor of her children's families: Jennifer and Chris Eanes, Leigh Wilkie and Jeff Rochester, Karen and Jason Hall, Pat and Rick Dempster, and Dean and Angela Floyd

Linda Floyd, In honor of her grandchildren and great grandchildren: Craig Floyd, Katherine Floyd, Walker Eanes, Addison Floyd, Riley Eanes, Summer Araya, Presley Eanes, Miles Hall, Bryson Hall, Ember Floyd, and Marcus Young

Joe Gause, in appreciation for the Prayer Shaw received from the Prayer Shaw Ministry and the comfort it has given him.

Ron and Sue Kesterson, in honor of the wonderful folks who have kept the congregation informed and in touch through Zoom classes and services, emails, phone calls and mail.

Polly and Banks Robinson, in honor of SOPC congregation

Sharon Staton, in memory of her father, Paul Benson, and in thankfulness for her grandchildren, Beckett and Blythe.

Jim and Elizabeth Taylor, in honor of Mrs. Carolyn (Buck) Bethea.

Shelagh Wirth, in honor of our staff

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHTING

Please light a candle (perhaps your PEACE light candle from last year) at 6 p.m. following this Christmas Eve Worship Service. You and your family and friends are invited to step outside and light a candle as a congregation, bound by the Christ light in our midst.

If you are able, please take a picture of your candle and submit to the church office for an upcoming project.

As you light your candle, consider offering a prayer for the following, silently or aloud:

Covid victims, their families, those suffering and in pain

First line workers, teachers, and caretakers

Those who have entered the Kingdom Triumphant this year of 2020

Those across the world who gather at the manger tonight awaiting the Light of the World

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church and our future discernment of Christ's call

A release of the stressors fo 2020 and a new beginning for 2021

Your hopes and dreams for this coming year

God's Love poured out through each of us

As a closing, you are invited to play or sing Silent Night as we experience this Christmas Eve Tradition in a new way this year.

May the Lord meet you at your manger tonight and May Christ's light shine in and through you this Season. Merry Christmas!!

In our continued prayers...



Edith Blanchett Nan Foster

Scott Wilhide Joe Gause

Daniel and Elizabeth Turk

Banks Robinson Loretta (Hadessah) Demko

Ed Keelen Al Charles

Linda Floyd

SOPC Covid Task Force

Iglesia Presbiteriana de Nueva Paz

This Week at SOPC

Sunday

Adult Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.

[https://zoom.us/j/508111743?](https://zoom.us/j/508111743?pwd=WUJpnelhCV2ICTTBKRTczY3l0YU8yZz09)

[pwd=WUJpnelhCV2ICTTBKRTczY3l0YU8yZz09](https://zoom.us/j/508111743?pwd=WUJpnelhCV2ICTTBKRTczY3l0YU8yZz09)

Meeting ID: 508 111 743 Password: 046739

By Phone: 1(646)558-8656 508111743 #

Sunday Service at 11:00 a.m.

[https://zoom.us/j/743754044?](https://zoom.us/j/743754044?pwd=bWIHWWJWOFr4UG1zQkZuRVRIaE41dz09)

[pwd=bWIHWWJWOFr4UG1zQkZuRVRIaE41dz09](https://zoom.us/j/743754044?pwd=bWIHWWJWOFr4UG1zQkZuRVRIaE41dz09)

Meeting ID: 743 754 044 Password: 072863

By Phone: 1(646)558-8656 743754044 #

Children's Check-In and Sunday School at 1:30 p.m.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84573328620?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84573328620?pwd=dkVUQWZMaUx5QitMZ1RLYUdCWml0dz09)

[pwd=dkVUQWZMaUx5QitMZ1RLYUdCWml0dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84573328620?pwd=dkVUQWZMaUx5QitMZ1RLYUdCWml0dz09)

Meeting ID: 845 7332 8620 Password: 237447

Wednesday

Lunch & Prayer: Wednesday at Noon

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89705113395?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89705113395?pwd=d3JZSTROa3RFVTIvd0U3WnZwNmhnZz09)

[pwd=d3JZSTROa3RFVTIvd0U3WnZwNmhnZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89705113395?pwd=d3JZSTROa3RFVTIvd0U3WnZwNmhnZz09)

Meeting ID: 897 0511 3395 Password: 300498

By Phone: 1(301)715-8592 89705113395#

Friday

Lanterns: Fridays at 7:00 a.m.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81316561956?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81316561956?pwd=eHVpcHdtNEkvUEExOc0hmbWpaNnhsZz09)

[pwd=eHVpcHdtNEkvUEExOc0hmbWpaNnhsZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81316561956?pwd=eHVpcHdtNEkvUEExOc0hmbWpaNnhsZz09)

Meeting ID: 813 1656 1956 Passcode: 168424