



Southminster Presbyterian Church

“A Christ-centered ... intentionally missional congregation ...”

799 Washington Road · Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania 15228
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Christmas Eve Candlelight Celebration of Worship December 24, 2023 10 p.m.

Carols at the South Door

Southminster Ringers

Prelude

Noel sur les Flutes

Louis-Claude Daquin

Two Settings of *Gloria*
(The tune may be found at Hymn 23.)

Michael Burkhardt

Unto Us Is Born a Son
Chancel Choir

Pies Cantiones, 1582
arr. David Willcocks

Unto us is born a Son, King of quires supernal;
See on earth his life begun, of lords the Lord eternal.
Christ, from heav'n descending low, comes on earth a stranger.
Ox and ass their owner know, becradled in the manger.
This did Herod sore affray, and grievously bewilder,
So he gave the word to slay, and slew the little childer.
Of His love and mercy mild this is the Christmas story,
And O that Mary's gentle Child might lead us up to glory!
O and A and A and O, *cum cantibus in choro**.
Let the merry organ go *Benedicamus Domino***.

*with singing in chorus. **Let us bless the Lord.

Three Carol Improvisations, *Op. 22* Paul Manz
I. *Still, Still, Still* II. *Go Tell It* III. *W Zlobie Lezy*
(The tunes may be found at Hymns 47, 29, and 37.)

Prayer for Christmas Eve

(...for a moment of personal reflection)

We have waited for a long time
for your hope, your joy, your love
to shine in the darkness of this world, Almighty God.
Even now, in our gathering here, we await you.
In our hearts, we still hope that your light will blaze forth,
banishing the shadows of this world
and guiding all the people back to you.
Through your Son, born to us tonight. Amen.

Ringing of the Hour

Welcome

Fred Barnes

Call to Worship

Leader: O come let us worship and lift our hearts, not because the world is good and the week is awesome,

People: But because the earth is the Lord's and everything in it.

Leader: O come let us worship and bow down ...not because God gives us what we want,

People: But because God gives us what we need –the holy child, Jesus, God's Unspeakable Gift.

Leader: O come let us worship...Not because our lives are all sweetness and light,

People: But because even those who walk in darkness have seen a great light. Child of promise, come into our lives tonight.

Lighting of the Advent & Christ Candles

People, Look East

BESANÇON

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today: Love the Lord is on the way.

Candles of HOPE, PEACE, LOVE, JOY, and CHRIST

The Etzel Family

* Hymn #41

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

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!

REFRAIN: *O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!*

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

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation! Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest! REFRAIN

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:6-7

* Hymn #44

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, And peace to all on earth!

Scripture Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

*** Hymn #44***O Little Town of Bethlehem*

ST. LOUIS

How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is given!
 So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heaven.
 No ear may hear His coming, But in this world of sin,
 Where meek souls will receive Him, still The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
 Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born in us today.
 We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
 O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-7

Anthem

Torches
 Chancel Choir

John Joubert

Torches, torches, run with torches all the way to Bethlehem!
 Christ is born and now lies sleeping. Come and sing your song to him!
 Ah, Roro, roro, my baby. Ah, Roro, my love, Roro.
 Sleep you well, my heart's own darling, while we sing you our Roro.
 Sing, my friends, and make you merry, joy and mirth and joy again.
 Lo, he lives, the King of heaven now and evermore. Amen.

Galician carol, trans. John Brande Trend

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:8-20

*** Hymn #58***While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*

WINCHESTER OLD

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, All seated on the ground,
 The angel of the Lord came down, And glory shone around.

“To you, in David’s town this day, Is born of David’s line
 The Savior, who is Christ the Lord, And this shall be the sign:

“The heavenly Babe you there shall find To human view displayed,
 All humbly wrapped in swathing bands, And in a manger laid.”

“All glory be to God on high, And to the earth be peace:
 Good will to all from highest heaven Begin and never cease!”

Meditation*We Have a New Neighbor!*

Fred Barnes

Anthem

Of the Father's Love Begotten
 Chancel Choir
 (The text and tune may be found at Hymn 309.)

Divinum Mysterium

Christmas Prayer

Jenn Stampfel

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.

Invitation to the Offering & Prayer of Dedication

Fred Barnes

Offertory

Good King Wenceslas
Chancel Choir

Pies Cantiones, 1582
arr. Reginald Jacques

Good King Wenceslas looked out on the Feast of Stephen
When the snow lay round about, deep, and crisp, and even.
Brightly shone the moon that night, though the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight gathering winter fuel.
"Hither, page, and stand by me if thou know'st it telling.
Yonder peasant, who is he? Where and what his dwelling?"
"Sire, he lives a good league hence underneath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence by Saint Agnes's fountain."
"Bring me flesh and bring me wine and bring me pinelongs hither.
Thou and I will see him dine when we bear them thither."
Page and monarch forth they went together
Through the rude wind's wild lament and the bitter weather.
"Sire, the night is darker now and the wind blows stronger.
Fails my heart, I know not how. I can go no longer."
"Mark my footsteps, good my page. Tread thou in them boldly.
Thou shalt find the winter's rage freeze thy blood less coldly"
In his master's steps he trod where the snow lay dinted.
Heat was in the very sod which the Saint had printed.
Therefore, Christian men, be sure, wealth or rank possessing.
Ye who now will bless the poor shall yourselves find blessing.

- John Mason Neale

* Lighting of the Christmas Candles

* Candlelight Carol Sing

Words are printed on the back page of the bulletin.

* Charge and Blessing

Fred Barnes

Please extinguish all candles following the Blessing.

* Postlude

In Dulci Jubilo, BWV 725
(The tune may be found at Hymn 28.)

Johann Sebastian Bach

* If you are able, please stand.

If you are visiting with us this morning, WELCOME! Please complete a CONNECT Card
so we can be in touch with you.
Thank you for sharing Worship with us this morning.



CHURCH STAFF

Mr. Frederic D. Barnes, Pastoral Care Associate & Director of AIC
Ms. Jennifer Stampfel, Director of Children's Ministry
Mr. H.K. Hilner, Crossings Music Director
Ms. Trish O'Connell, Bookkeeper
Mrs. Sue Remely, Church Hostess
Mrs. Cheryl Polito, Wedding Coordinator
Mr. Raymond Clayton, Facilities Superintendent
Ms. Eileen Kinner, Coordinator of Communication Technologies & Facilities Associate
Mr. Anthony Maiorano, Facilities Associate
Mrs. Lori Guenther, Director Southminster Early Learning Academy
Ms. Bonnie Kline, Director Southminster Child Care Center



THE CANDLELIGHT CAROLS

*(Let us celebrate the coming of the Light of the world
by raising our candles during all refrains in italics.)*

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 of His love, And wonders, wonders, of His love.

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for His 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.

The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply Echoing 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.

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, 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 24, 2023

WELCOME: In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you to this Celebration of Worship. May we, each one, by the power of the Holy Spirit experience a *close communion* with God and a *warm fellowship* with one another.

WE THANK *Craig Dobbins*, for sharing his ministry of music in worship this evening.

DECEMBER 31 WORSHIP: On *Sunday, December 31, 2023*, there will be a Combined Worship Service at 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. There will be NO Café, Sunday School, or Childcare.

THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED on *Monday, December 25*, and *Tuesday December 26*, for the Christmas holiday and *January 1* for the New Year's holiday. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

YEAR-END GIVING: As 2023 quickly ends, please assist the SPC "family" to finish the year on solid financial footing. Is your pledge completed? Have you been especially blessed this year and can make an extra gift? This might be a fine time to make a generous gift of stock to the mission and ministry of SPC. SPC is prepared to handle all kinds of transactions; please contact the Church Office or info@spchurch.org. SPC will "close" our 2023 financial books on *Friday, January 5*. All gifts received by then and dated 2023 will help the SPC "family" finish strong. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

ADULT INTEREST CENTER: The **Adult Interest Center** will be taking the month of January 2024 off. However, we will continue through June 21. Here are the entertainers/speakers through March:

- * **February 2:** *Rick Purcell – Singer/Keyboard*
- * **February 16:** *Courtney Lynn - Singer*
- * **March 15:** *Kateryna Boiko - Singer*
- * **March 29:** *Closed – Good Friday*

Remember, during inclement weather if Mt. Lebanon Schools delay or cancel, we will **NOT** meet! Invite a friend to enjoy the fun, fellowship, and food!

NAME TAGS! More name tags will be ordered in January! Please let the Church Life Committee know if you would like one! Email your name, as you would like it to appear on your name tag, to SPChurchLife@gmail.com! OR fill out the form at any Get to Know Your Church Family information table at the church entrances! Our deadline is January 14!

FAT TUESDAY: Fat Tuesday Dinner February 13, 2024, from 6 pm to 7:30 in Fellowship Hall. All ages are invited to enjoy a pancake dinner and, of course, donuts! No cost to attend but a free will offering will be taken. For entertainment, Crossings band will be playing rock oldies for a sing-a-long! Please RSVP to info@spchurch.org or by calling the church office at 412-343-8900.



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: A cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Whether providing financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families or providing opportunities for deserving students to attend Presbyterian-related racial ethnic colleges and schools, your generous gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering will shine the One True Light of Christ's love. We will receive the Christmas Joy Offering on **Christmas Eve**.





Merry Christmas