



# GRACE

FELLOWSHIP, PCA

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~Evening Service of Worship~  
Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service  
December 24, 2020  
5:00 PM

**Prelude**

**Meditation**

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” - John 8:12

The Son of God, the second person in the Trinity, being very and eternal God, of one substance and equal with the Father, did, when the fulness of time was come, take upon Him man’s nature, with all the essential properties, and common infirmities thereof, yet without sin; being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the virgin Mary, of her substance. So that two whole, perfect, and distinct natures, the Godhead and the manhood, were inseparably joined together in one person, without conversion, composition, or confusion. Which person is very God, and very man, yet one Christ, the only Mediator between God and man. (Westminster Confession of Faith 8.2)

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Special Music** - *O Holy Night* by Harper Chassay

**Call to Worship** - Luke 2:8-20

Pastor: And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them,

Congregation: “*Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.*”

Pastor: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

Congregation: *“Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”*

Pastor: When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

Congregation: *“Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”*

Pastor: And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

Congregation: But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## **Invocation**

**\*Christmas Carol - Joy to the World #195**

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:

Let earth receive her King;

Let every heart prepare him room,

And heav'n and nature sing.

And heav'n and nature sing.

And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! 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.

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.

**Lighting of the Christ Candle - The Kreger Family**  
“Jesus, the Light of the World”  
John 1:1-14

**\*Christmas Carol - Away in a Manger #204**  
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 thee, Lord Jesus! look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle, till morning is nigh.

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

**Scripture Reading - Matthew 1:18-25**

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call His name *Jesus*, for He will save His people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name *Immanuel*” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called His name *Jesus*.

**\*Christmas Carol - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel #194 (vs 1,3,4)**

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell thy people save,  
And give them victory o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring from on high  
And cheer us by thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

**Ministry of the Word - "Wise Men Still Seek Him"**

Matthew 2:1-12

Rev. Jackie D. Gaston

**Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

**\*Candle Lighting by the Congregation**

**\*Hymn of Response - Silent Night #210**

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 heav'n afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing: Alleluia,  
Christ, the Saviour, is born! Christ, the Saviour, 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, led they light;  
With the angels let us sing  
Alleluia to our King;  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ the Savior, is born!

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

- \* those who are able, please stand.
- +If you would like to speak with someone about how to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, please see the pastor or elders after the service.
- +All musical lyrics used by permission, CCLI #2815163

*Sermon Notes:*