



TAB

Tabernacle Presbyterian Church
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

December 24, 2024
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service | 8p

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

8 o'clock Worship

We hope you will sense our vision for Greater Faith, Deeper Relationships, and Stronger Community as you worship with us.

The Prelude is a time of worship offering praise to God as well as giving each of us an opportunity to prepare our hearts for worship. Please use this time to pray, meditate and reflect on how God might speak to you during the service this morning.

We Gather to Worship God

PRELUDE

- "Wachet Auf!" (Sleepers Wake!) *arr. Emma Lou Diemer*
- "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" *arr. Marilyn Biery*
- "Variations on 'What Child Is This?'" *arr. Craig Phillips*
- "I Wonder As I Wander" *arr. Michele Robeson-Howard*
- "Divinum Mysterium" *arr. Wilbur Held*

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" *In Dulci Jubilo*

*Good Christian friends,
rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!*

VERSICLES AND RESPONSE

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Leader: Let us pray...

THE BIDDING PRAYER

† CAROL #140

"Once in Royal David's City" *Irby*

We Hear God's Word

The Scripture lessons in this evening's service tell of God's loving purposes for humankind...beginning with the Prophet Isaiah's announcements of a child to be born, a holy child of light...which Christians have long viewed as foretelling the one whose birth we celebrate this night...and concluding with the joyous Gospel stories of Jesus' birth, in who the full expression of God's love for all people is made known!

TELLING THE STORY: LESSONS AND CAROLS

† HYMN #104

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?” *Valet Will Ich Dir Geben*

THE FIRST LESSON God Gives God's People A Sign

ISAIAH 7:1-2, 10-15 | Rob Springer

ANTHEM

“Of the Father's Love Begotten” *Divinum Mysterium*

*Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega; he the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore!*

*By his Word was all created; he commanded; it was done:
Heaven and earth and depths of ocean, universe of three in one,
All that sees the moon's soft shining,
all that breathes beneath the sun,
Evermore and evermore!*

*O, that birth forever blessed when the Virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
Evermore and evermore!*

*This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word.
Now he shines, the long-expected. Let creation praise its Lord,
Evermore and evermore!*

THE SECOND LESSON The Gift of God's Zeal

ISAIAH 9:2, 6-7 | Ellen Moeller

† HYMN #82

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” *Hyfrydol*

THE THIRD LESSON Knowledge of God Will Overflow the Earth

ISAIAH 11:1-4a, 6-9 | Byron Robinson

ANTHEM

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” *Es Ist Ein' Ros'*

*Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung,
Of Jesse's lineage coming,
by faithful prophets sung.
It came, a floweret bright,
amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.*

*Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
the rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright
she bore for us a Savior,
When half spent was the night.*

*This flower, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor
the darkness everywhere.
Enfleshed, yet very God,
from sin and death he saves us
And lightens every load.*

THE FOURTH LESSON God Offers Comfort and Homecoming

ISAIAH 40:1-11 | Sandy Roob

† HYMN #102

“Savior of the Nations, Come” *Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland*

THE FIFTH LESSON The Angel Gabriel Visits Mary

LUKE 1:26-35, 38 | Terry Turman

† HYMN #98

“To A Maid Whose Name Was Mary” *Annunciation*

THE SIXTH LESSON Jesus is Born

LUKE 2:1, 3-7 | Carol Newell

† HYMN #121

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” *St. Louis*

THE SEVENTH LESSON Shepherds Come to See What God Has Done

LUKE 2:8-16 | Bruce McDonald

ANTHEM

“While By My Sheep” *arr. Hugo Jungst*

*While by my sheep I watch'd at night
Glad tidings brought an angel bright:
How great my joy, joy, joy, joy!
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high.*

*There shall be born, so he did say,
In Bethlehem a child today;
How great my joy, joy, joy, joy!
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high.*

*There shall he lie in manger mean,
Who shall redeem the world from sin;
How great my joy; joy, joy, joy!
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high.'*

*Lord, evermore to me be nigh,
Then shall my heart be filled with joy!
How great my joy; joy, joy, joy!
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high.*

THE EIGHTH LESSON The Wise of the World Seek Jesus

MATTHEW 2:1-12 | Angi Parks

† **HYMN #151**

“We Three Kings of Orient Are” *Kings of Orient*

THE NINTH LESSON God's Promise is Fulfilled

JOHN 1:1-14 | Bill Smutz

† **CAROL #119**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” *Mendelssohn*

We Respond to God's Word

† A CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(in unison)*

Leader: Let us join together proclaiming some of that which we believe.

We believe that God did not wait till the world was ready, till nations were at peace. God came when the Heavens were unsteady, and prisoners cried out for release. God did not wait for the perfect time. God came when the need was deep and great. God dined with sinners in all their grime, and turned water into wine. We believe that God did not wait till hearts were pure. In joy God came to a tarnished world of brokenness and doubt. To a world like ours, of mess and blame, with grace and hope and care God came. In total darkness God shined a light, that will never go out and makes all bright. We believe that God came to a world which did not mesh; to heal its tangles, and shield its scorn. And in the mystery of God made Flesh, the Maker of the stars was born. We believe that we cannot wait till the world is the same, to raise our songs with joyful voice; for to share our grief, to touch our pain, God came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice! Amen!

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“O Holy Night” Adolphe Adam

*O holy night! the stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope- the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!*

*Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;
Let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!*

Carrying God's Word Into the World

The ushers will receive the light of the Christ Candle from the pastor and pass it to those sitting nearest the center aisle. Please tip the unlit candle to the lit candle as the light is passed down your row. Please assist your children as they participate in this very special tradition of Tabernacle Church.

A CEREMONY OF LIGHTS

† CAROL

“Silent Night! Holy Night!” *Stille Nacht*

*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.*

† BENEDICTION AND EXTINGUISHING OF CANDLES

† BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“Joy to the World” *Antioch*

*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 earth! 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 the sounding joy
No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessing 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.*

† SHARING PEACE & CHRISTMAS GREETINGS POSTLUDE

“Joy to the World” *Folgert Zwaving*

Affirmation Of Faith adapted from the poem “First Coming” by Madeleine L’Engle

Today’s Worship Participants

Rev. Dr. Bill Smutz, *Interim Senior Pastor*

Matt Kauffman, *Organist*

Rob Springer

Ellen Moeller

Byron Robinson

Sandy Roob

Terry Turman

Carol Newell

Bruce McDonald

Angi Parks

Liturgists

Sanctuary Choir

Cora Winstead, *Soloist*

Mark Murray, *Trumpet*

Brian Hoover, *Trumpet*

Brad Koser, *Trombone*

Bill Schmidt, *Tuba*



**THANK YOU FOR
JOINING US TONIGHT!**

HOLIDAY HOURS

The office will be closed tomorrow and New Year’s Day. The church office will also close at noon on New Year’s Eve.

THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

10 AM | Sanctuary worship only
No Education Hour.

CHRISTMAS WITH TAB

“Christmas With Tab,” will re-air tomorrow morning at 11a on WISH-TV, channel 8.