

Tabernacle Presbyterian Church
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

December 24, 2025 | 8p
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

8 o'clock Worship

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

† Please stand in body or spirit.

PRELUDE

“Wachet Auf!” (Sleepers Wake!) *arr. Emma Lou Diemer*

“Christmas Medley” *arr. Charles J. Torian, Jr.*

“Wachet Auf!” (Sleepers Wake!) *J. S. Bach*

“What Child is This?” *arr. Craig Phillips*

“Christmas Fantasy” *arr. Joel Raney*

WELCOME | Rev. Dr. Steven Smith

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE | Rev. Dr. Steven Smith

† 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!*

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

People: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.

Leader: For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given.

People: Authority rests upon this one, whose name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

All: *Come, let us worship the child born in Bethlehem this night!*

† CAROL

“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!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!
True God from true God, Light from light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Very God, begotten, not created!
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 heaven 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!
Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

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

† CAROL

“What Child Is This?” *Greensleeves*

*What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch
are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!*

*Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!*

THE FIRST LESSON | *Isaiah 7:1-2, 10-15* | Andrew Hart

God Gives God's People A Sign

SOLO

"Gesù Bambino" *Pietro A. Yon*

Cora Winstead, soloist

*When blossoms flower e'er 'mid the snows,
Upon a winter night,
Was born the child, the Christmas rose,
The king of love and light.
The angels sang, the shepherds sang,
The grateful earth rejoiced;
And at his blessed birth the stars
Their exultation voiced.*

*O come let us adore him
O come let us adore him
O come let us adore him
Christ the lord.*

*Again the heart with rapture glows
To greet the holy night,
That gave the world its Christmas rose,
Its king of love and light
Let ev'ry voice acclaim his name,
The grateful chorus swell
From paradise to earth he came
That we with him might dwell.*

THE SECOND LESSON | *Isaiah 9:2, 6-7* | Ellen Moeller

The Gift of God's Zeal

+ CAROL

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" *Hyfrydol*

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.*

THE THIRD LESSON | *Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9* | Betsy Brunette

Knowledge of God Will Overflow the Earth

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 | *Isaiah 40:1–11* | Mark John

God Offers Comfort and Homecoming

ANTHEM

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People” Genevan 42

“Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!” So says our God.

“Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load.

To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them!

Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.”

Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.

Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God's holy reign.

For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,

and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

THE FIFTH LESSON | *Luke 1:26–35, 38* | Angi Parks

The Angel Gabriel Visits Mary

† CAROL

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

To a maid whose name was Mary, the angel Gabriel came.

*“Fear not,” the angel told her, “I come to bring good news;
Good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news.”*

*“For you are highly favored by God the Lord of all,
Who even now is with you. You are on earth most blest;
You are most blest, most blessed; God chose you, you are blest!”*

But Mary was most troubled to hear the angel's word.

What was the angel saying? It troubled her to hear,

To hear the angel's message, it troubled her to hear.

“Fear not, for God is with you, and you shall bear a child.

*His name shall be called Jesus, God's offspring from on high.
And he shall reign forever, forever reign on high.”*

“How shall this be?” said Mary, “I am not yet a wife.”

*The angel answered quickly, “The power of the Most High
Will come upon you shortly, your child shall be God's child.”*

As Mary heard the angel, she wondered at his words.

“Behold, I am your handmaid,” she said unto her God.

“So be it; I am ready according to your word.”

THE SIXTH LESSON | *Luke 2:1, 3–7* | Carol Newell

Jesus is Born

† CAROL

“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.
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.*

THE SEVENTH LESSON | *Luke 2:8–16* | Angi Parks

Shepherds Come to See What God Has Done

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 | *Matthew 2:1–12* | Betsy Brunette

The Wise of the World Seek Jesus

† CAROL

“Angels, From the Realms of Glory” *Regent Square*

*Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
You, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!*

*Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations; you have seen his natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!*

THE NINTH LESSON | *John 1:1–14* | Andrew Hart

God's Promise is Fulfilled

+ CAROL

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” *Mendelssohn*

*Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”*

*Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”*

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”*

We Respond To God's Word

+ A CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | Rev. Dr. Steven Smith

I believe in God whose light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never smother it.

I believe that on a night like this night in Bethlehem there was born a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.

I believe in the Word who has become incarnate, our very flesh and blood, yet full of grace and truth.

I believe in the blessed appearing of the salvation of our God, that is for the happiness of all people.

I believe in his name as Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of peace;

Of the increase of his rule and of his unique peace, there will be no end.

The zeal of the God of hosts will do this.

This I surely believe!

THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING | Rev. Dr. Steven Smith

OFFERTORY

“O Holy Night” *Adolphe Adam*

Carys Habig, soloist

*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!*

CHRISTMAS PRAYER | Rev. Dr. Steven Smith

Carrying God's Word Into The World

A CEREMONY OF LIGHTS

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.

† 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.
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*

† **POSTLUDE**

"O Tannenbaum" German Folk Song

Today's Worship Participants

Rev. Dr. Steven Smith, Interim Associate Pastor

Matt Kauffman, Organist/Minister of Music

Sanctuary Choir

Cora Winstead, Soloist

Carys Habig, Soloist

Mark Murray, Trumpet

Zach Calhoun, Trumpet

Larry Lemon, French Horn

Brad Koser, Trombone

Bill Schmidt, Tuba

Thanks to each of our readers for this evening's service:

*Betsy Brunette, Mark John, Andrew Hart, Ellen Moller, Carol Newell
and Angi Parks*

*Thank you for joining us this evening and
have a Merry Christmas!*

HOLIDAY HOURS

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

THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

10 AM | Sanctuary worship only
No Education Hour

CHRISTMAS WITH TAB

"Christmas With Tab," will air tonight at 7p on WNDY, channel 23, and again tomorrow morning, Christmas Day, at 11a on WISH-TV, channel 8.



Have you seen the new Spiritual Growth catalog?

CHECK IT OUT!

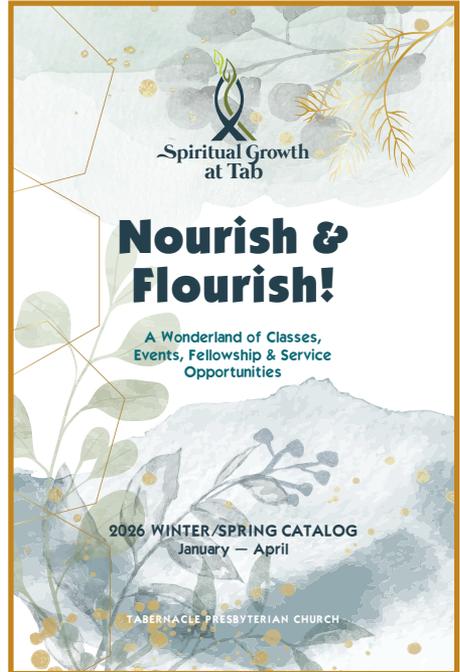


The Spiritual Growth Team welcomes the new year, with A Wonderland of Classes, Events, Fellowship & Service Opportunities, as titled in its newly issued Winter/Spring Catalog. Spanning twenty-six pages, the catalog offers a rich variety of opportunities, including new classes on Forgiveness, God's desire for an Abundant and Flourishing Life, Honest Conversations in Spiritual Exploration, and the Book of Philemon.

The catalog also highlights special events, such as a fun Tab family adventure at Newfields' 100 Acres: Art & Nature Park, and a Sunday devoted to hearing from our new Executive Director of Tab's Recreation Ministry, Reggie Martin.

This is an exciting season in our shared pursuit of spiritual growth, as we deepen our faith while also welcoming our new Transitional Head Pastor, Clark Cowden. The new catalog is available in the Front Office area and an electronic version will be available soon.

There truly is something for everyone in the new year. It is good to be in fellowship and learning at Tab!





THANK YOU FOR GIVING

Your generous support enables Tab to spread the love and joy of Christ to thousands each year.

Whether through worship, music, community outreach, pastoral care, ministry programs and events, your faithful commitment and contributions truly make a difference.

Ways to Give:

- Scan the QR code
- Text **TABPRES** to 73256

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