

First Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve Jazz Communion Service

December 24, 2018

11:00 p.m.

*Yet tonight you meet each one of us: right here, right now.
You come, not with burning Holy Fire, but in the simplicity of a Child.
Come down low and reach us, we pray,
that we would experience your love and your mercy. Amen.*

ALL ARE WELCOMED

Music to Gather the Shepherds

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

arr. Carter

"Christmas is Coming"

V. Guaraldi, arr. C. Chesnut

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

Tonight is when heaven kisses the earth.

Here is the manger where God takes on flesh.

The shepherds come to see this mystery,

even though official temples would not welcome them.

Wise sages from the East come to worship and offer gifts,

They are strangers, yet greeted as God's Beloved.

In a place that seems off the beaten path,

there God draws near to bring Light and Life to all;

there God sends his Son.

* Hymn 133 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (verses 1, 3, 4)

The musicians will play a brief interlude between the verses.

* Opening Prayer

Creator of all the faithful and the unfaithful,

some of us almost didn't make it tonight.

Other demands tug us in different directions.

Doubts have nipped at our heels.

Holiday greed threatens to make us less than human.

* Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you . . . and also with you.

* Response

O come, let us adore him . . . Christ the Lord.

LISTEN TO THE BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Prayer for Light

First Lesson: Luke 2:1-20

Special Music

"Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day"

arr. Carter

Second Lesson: John 1:1-5, 14-18

Sermon: "Thoroughly Human, Completely Alive"

Rev. Carter

GIVING AND RECEIVING GIFTS

* Hymn 134

"Joy to the World"

* Affirmation of Faith

Titus 3:4-7

*When the goodness and kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us,
not because of any works of righteousness we had done,
but according to his mercy,*

through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

*This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,
so that, having been justified by his grace,*

we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Offering Our Gifts

Offering Music

"The Coventry Carol"

arr. Carter

Receiving God's Gifts - The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer ("debts" and "debtors")

Communion of the People

All are invited forward by the center aisle to receive the bread and cup.

Please return to your seat by a side aisle.

Communion Music

"Sleep, Holy Infant, Sleep"

Dave Brubeck

RETURNING HOME BY ANOTHER WAY

* Candlelighting Hymn 122

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

* Charge and Benediction

Music to Warm the Soul

Please stay as long as you wish. If you must depart, do so quietly.

* All who are able shall stand.

A warm welcome to all visitors! Please join those around you in filling out the red pads in the pews so that we know you are here.

PARTICIPANTS IN TONIGHT'S SERVICE

Pastor/Pianist: The Rev. Bill Carter

Worship Leader: Wayne Wolfe Cantors: Frank Jones and Sue Kelly

Bass: Tony Marino Drums: Marko Marcinko Saxophone: Mike Carbone



First Presbyterian Church

300 School Street

Clarks Summit, PA 18411

(570) 586-6306

www.fpccs.org