

and began to spread the good Word.

Part V: Wise Persons and Star

Those who wish to be Wise Persons are invited forward. Colorful construction-paper crowns with “jewels” are placed on their heads. An older child has been asked in advance to bring forward a brilliant star extended high on a stick. As the Wise Persons come forward, the congregation sings “We Three Kings.” When the Wise Persons are on stage, narrator begins.

The star that shone brightly led Wise Persons at night To Bethlehem’s stable, to the manger’s strange light. They came bearing gifts, in worship and love, praising God for God’s wonders from heaven above. The Wise Men were kings and they knelt on my straw. It was the oddest of things that ever I saw. If kings bring him treasure, then maybe you, too, can worship with pleasure the person of Jesus, who came to us all. So worthy of praise, for he brings us God’s call.” “I am the way, the truth, and the life, Come to God for healing from strife. Come unto me, all you who labor, And I’ll give you rest forever to savor.”

Part VI: Conclusion

T’was the very first Christmas and there in the manger, The Christ-child was born; it couldn’t have been stranger. Shepherds saw angels; Wise Men, a star. They came to see Jesus; they came afar. They knew he was special – God’s very own son, He came to the earth to love everyone. He grew up in time, the Savior, the Lord, To be worshiped each

day, to be loved and adored. So now at Christmas we all take delight. In the gift that God gave us that first Christmas night. In the gifts we receive and the ones that we give, Let us never forget, it’s in Christ that we live.

Song *Joy to the World*

Responding to the Word

Offering *Prayer of Dedication, Music*

Response *Angels We Have heard on High (refrain only)*

Celebration of Holy Communion

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right... who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts 2x

The whole world is full of God’s glory 3x

Holy is the Lord!

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Prayer After Communion

Going into the World

Choir *Celtic Advent Carol*

+Charge and Benediction

+Postlude



**Community of Faith
Presbyterian Church
Second Sunday of Advent,
December 9, 2018**

Welcome

Choir *There Shall Come Forth a Shoot From Jesse*

Lighting of the Advent Candles

L: We light two candles today, as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Notice how the light grows brighter!

P: As the light grows brighter, we imagine the days to come:

L: The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid,

P: the calf and the lion and the fatling will lie down together, and a little child shall lead them.

All: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Let us pray: **God of grace, ever faithful to your promises, the earth rejoices in hope of our Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts to receive him when he comes, for he is Lord forever and ever. Amen.**

Passing of the Peace

Hearing the Word

Choir *Every Valley*

Prayer

As we await the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ, may these words warm our hearts and nourish our spirits that we may be strengthened for the what lies ahead of us. Amen.

Scripture Luke 2:1-7 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be

registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

No Fuss, No Stress Christmas Pageant

Part I: Mary and Joseph

Those who wish to portray Mary and Joseph are invited forward. As the Marys and Josephs come forward, the congregation sings "O Little Town of Bethlehem." When the Marys and Josephs are on stage, narrator begins. Mary and Joseph, a pitiful sight. So tired and dirty, they gave me a fright. Sickly or dying? What was the matter? "A room in the inn?" Impossible chatter! "My rooms are all taken; not one empty bed. There'll not be a room in all Bethlehem," I said. But their eyes told a story of hunger and need.

I couldn't avoid them, so I tried a good deed. I cleaned up the stable: Rachel cooked up a meal. We helped all we

could, at least, that's how I feel. For we noticed that Mary was expecting – and soon! So we prepared for delivery right under the moon. The child came so quickly. His face seemed a light. As if God had shone God's presence so bright. Joseph said softly. "It's Jesus, my friend." God sent him among us to bring to an end fear and hatred, darkness and sin. Instead God gave light, to let God's love in.

Part II: The Animals

Those who wish to be goats, sheep, cows or donkeys are invited by narrator to come forward. Animals are given masks or hats. As the animals come forward, the congregation sings "Away in a Manger" When the animals are on stage, narrator begins.

My animals were calm, quieter than normal. They often were noisy, and never too formal. They always were eating, or else they were sleeping. The stable required continuous sweeping. But on Christmas night, they were strangely in awe at the sight of the babe and all that they saw. It's as if they were aware that God had just hushed them, had fed and watered and carefully brushed them. They knew, I believe, that God had been able to work a miracle there in that stable.

Part III: Angels

Those who wish to be angels are invited forward. Gold and silver garland halos are placed on their heads. As the angels come forward, the congregation sings "Hark! The Herald Angels

Sing." When the angels are on stage, narrator begins.

We don't often see angels in flight. But on the first Christmas, they lit up the night. They appeared to the shepherds and, boy, were they scared! "Angels!" cried one. "Will any lives be spared?" "Are they here to destroy us? Is our time on earth up? Have we seen our last day? Have we drunk our last cup?" But "Peace on earth; goodwill to all" was the angels' sweet song; that was their call. With a light show that dazzled all who did see, the angels hallelujahed and sang out with glee. "To Bethlehem, shepherds!" the angels directed. "To see Jesus the Christ, whom God has perfected." "Go worship the Lord and follow his ways. And you'll find Christmas joy for all of your days."

Part IV: Shepherd

Those who wish to be shepherds are invited forward. They are given candy canes to represent shepherd's staffs. As the shepherds come forward, the congregation sings "Go Tell It on the Mountain." When the shepherds are on stage, narrator begins.

The shepherds, I told you, were scared and stunned. "Too much hard work or too much hot sun!" That's what they thought; that's how they explained. Perplexed and afraid, they loudly complained. But the angels' song calmed them, and then they believed. They rejoiced when they knew and they were quite relieved. They went to the stable and worshiped the Lord. Then they left