

L: Lift it up, do not fear.

P: Say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" Isaiah 10:9

Meditation Rev. Sharon Carter
Offering

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

+Hymn *Still, Still, Still*

The story of Jesus' Birth: 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.

+Hymn *Angels We Have Heard on High* #23

Dressing of the Manger

All are invited to come forward and dress the manger with bands of cloth that are found on the the front pew.

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST FILLS
OUR HEARTS

The Story of the Light: John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life,[Ⓜ] and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own,[Ⓜ] and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,[Ⓜ] full of grace and truth.

Special Music *O Sleep Dear Holy Baby*

Candle Lighting and Hymn

Silent Night #60

Benediction, Postlude



*Community of Faith
Presbyterian Church
Christmas Eve Service 2018*



Leader reads plain type, **Congregation reads bold type**
+Stand as you are able

Prelude
Welcome and Opening Prayer
Prayers of the People
Special Music *O Holy Night*

AT THE MANGER: MARY
+Hymn *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*
 #27

During the hymn, the Christ candle and the Advent Candles are lighted.

The Story of Mary: Luke 1:26-35
 26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."^[a] 29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." 34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"^[a] 35 The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will

come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born^[a] will be holy; he will be called Son of God.
Response:
 L: The Lord himself will give you a sign.
P: Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son.
 L: And they shall name him Emmanuel,
P: Which means, God is with us. Isaiah 7:14

AT THE MANGER: JOSEPH
+Hymn *O Little Town of Bethlehem*
The Story of Joseph: Matthew 1:18-21¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah^[a] took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 20 But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:
 23 "Look, the virgin shall conceive and

bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

Response:
 L: A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse.
P: And a branch shall grow out of his roots.
 L: The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him.
P: The spirit of wisdom and understanding.
 L: The spirit of counsel and might.
P: The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. Isaiah 11:1-2

AT THE MANGER: THE STAR
+Hymn *Watchman, Tell Us Of the Night* #20

The story of the Star: Matthew 2:1-2,7-10 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men^[a] from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising,^[b] and have come to pay him homage." 7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men^[a] and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." 9 When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising,^[b] until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw that the star had

stopped,^[a] they were overwhelmed with joy.

Response:
 L: Arise, shine, for your light has come.
P: And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
 L: For darkness shall cover the earth,
P: And thick darkness the peoples.
 L: But the Lord will arise upon you,
P: And his glory will appear over you. Isaiah 60:1-2

AT THE MANGER: ANGELS
+Hymn *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*
 #31

The Story of the Angels: Luke 2:8-14
 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,^[a] the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,^[b] praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Response:
 L: Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings.
P: Lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings.