

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church
Classic Worship, 6:00 & 8:00 p.m.
December 24, 2023

CHRISTMAS PRELUDE Ozark Point Brass Quintet

CHIMING OF THE HOUR / GREETING Dr. John Robbins

OPENING VOLUNTARY *O Hail this Brightest Day of Days* J.S. Bach

*** CALL TO WORSHIP** (6:00) Rev. Katy Chambers (8:00) Rev. Daniel Curry

Pastor: Do not be afraid: for see—
I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:

People: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,
who is the Messiah, the Lord.

*** OPENING HYMN 234** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* ADESTE FIDELES
(Verses 1-3 & 6)

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;

(Refrain) O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal, lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created; *(Refrain)*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; *(Refrain)*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *(Refrain)*

*** LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE** (6:00) Anna-Lee & Sam McSpadden
(8:00) Karen & Bill Cobb

Leader: Tonight we light the Christ candle, for the people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

People: For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given;
and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

All Sing: Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plain,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains:
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

*** SCRIPTURE LESSON** Luke 2:1-20 Dr. Robbins

This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

HOMILY It's Just That Simple

CALL TO CONFESSION (6:00) Rev. Jay Clark (8:00) Rev. Ellen Rowland

Tonight we celebrate that Jesus, our Lord, came to us as a human, just like us but without sin.
He came so that we may be freed from sin. With this peace and understanding,
let us go before God to confess our sins and be forgiven.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON

**Generous God, you give us the greatest gift of all, yourself, but often we find it hard
to take notice; we are caught up with our own gifts, both given and received.
Forgive us for the casual way we treat your gift of love. Cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today.**

Pastor: Hear the good news.
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven,
All: Glory to God. Amen.

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

(6:00) *The First Noel* arr. John Rutter
Chancel Choir

(8:00) *Midnight Noel* arr. Mark Hayes
Karen Clark, soprano

*** HYMN 240** *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* MENDELSSOHN
(Verses 1 & 3)

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 th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
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!"

*** THE GREAT THANKSGIVING** Dr. Jeffery Hampton

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord. Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*The pastor gives thanks, remembering God's acts of salvation, and concludes:
And so, with your people on earth, and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow-er and might. Heav-en and earth are
full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

As the congregation is seated, the pastor continues the thanksgiving and concludes:
 And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
 We offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice,
 in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.



The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding:
 All honor is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.



SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION MUSIC *Of the Father's Love Begotten* *arr. Sterling Procter*
 Ozark Point Brass Quintet

(6:00) *What Child Is This* *arr. Stephen Bulla*
 Susan Antonetti, flute

SOLO *O Holy Night* *Adolphe Adams*
 Karen Clark, soprano

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

The sanctuary lights will be dimmed as *Silent Night* begins and the pastors and ushers light their candles from the Christ candle. An usher will then light the candle of the first person in each pew. Remembering to keep your candle upright at all times, light your own candle from the person next to you, and then pass along the light to the person on your other side.

* **HYMN 239** *Silent 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**

* **CLOSING VOLUNTARY** *Festival Flourish on 'Joy to the World'* *Jacob Weber*

ACOLYTES
 (6:00) Tucker Norton & Noah Rhodes IV
 (8:00) Isabel Adams

ALTAR GUILD
 (6:00) Sylvia Borchert, Cathy Bozynski, Sandra De Luca, Becky McCoy,
 Kathy Roberts

(8:00) Patti Coleman, Tomye Modlin, Billie Rutherford, Skip Rutherford

SOUND
 (6:00) Bob Worthington
 (8:00) Robert Powers

USHERS
 (6:00) Bill Mann, Caroline Beauchamp, Jennie Cole, George Cox, Grant Cox
 (8:00) David Jones, Andy Agar, Scott Clement, Cher Dupuy, Will Jones

SANCTUARY FLOWERS
 The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory to God by Louise and Andre Rollefson.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 WORSHIP SCHEDULE
 9:00 A.M. Classic Worship Service Only (Sanctuary); 11:00 A.M. Modern Worship Service Only (Wesley Hall)




PULASKI HEIGHTS
 United Methodist Church
 4823 Woodlawn Drive • Little Rock, AR • 72205
www.phumc.com

It's Just That Simple
Dr. John Robbins

6:00/8:00 pm Christmas Eve