

# Creekside Church of the Brethren

## The Celebration of Christmas Eve

December 24, 2006, 7:00 p.m.

At the end of a long journey for a called people seeking a destiny;  
at the end of an enforced trek to a highland town with no room for the poor,  
at the end of the hard travail for a teenage woman sheltering in a shed:

Came the unspeakable Gift;  
The wondrous self-emptying,  
the embodied word, the great folly of God;  
that baby crying in the night  
who frightened jeweled kings and shook the gates of hell.

--End and Beginning by P.D. Prewer

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Pastor David

HYMN (insert)

*"Longing for Light"*

### Presenting the Christ Candle

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: The amazing grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Now is God about to do a wondrous thing.

**All: A young woman shall give birth to a child,**

One: and his name shall be Jesus, which means Liberator,

**All: for he shall save his people from their sins.**

One: Holy, holy, holy is the God of countless galaxies and also of tiny babies!

**All: May the wonder of Jesus be born in us this night.**

\*OPENING PRAYER

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-4. 6-7; 11:1-6

ANTHEM

*"Born 'Neath a Star"*

Gray

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:1-20

HYMN NO. 215 (Blue)

*"What Child is This"*

MEDITATION

David Bibbee

SONG

*"O Holy Night"*

## The Sacrament of Communion

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

O Lord of light and love, you gave us the gift of Jesus, your only Son, that we may have power to become your children through him. He existed before the world was called into being, he was born of a humble virgin, lying in a manger, and he walked the earth as a man. He became poor, so that by his poverty we might become rich; he humbled himself that we might be exalted; he gave us peace and joy when we were without hope and without God. Therefore with the whole company of saints in heaven and on earth, we celebrate the birth of our Savior and we sing with joy. Amen.

\*HYMN NO. 318 (Blue)

*"Joy to the World"*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (unison)

**His birth we celebrate. His death we proclaim. His resurrection we declare.  
His coming we await.**

THE AFFIRMATION (responsive)

One: The bread, which we break, is the communion of the body of Christ.

**All: We who are many are one body, for we all share in the same loaf.**

One: The cup for which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

**All: The cup, which we drink, is our participation in the blood of Christ.**

THE INVITATION

Isaiah 55:1-2

COMMUNION

If it is difficult for you to come forward to receive communion, you may hold up your hand and you will be served in the pew.

### Candle Lighting Service

\*HYMN NO. 193 (Blue)

*"Silent Night"*

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

\*Please stand as you are able.

Bulletins may be recycled in the baskets located in gathering area.

**Website:** [www.creeksideconnected.com](http://www.creeksideconnected.com)

**STAFF EMAIL ADDRESSES:**

The Office (Cindy): [office@creeksideconnected.com](mailto:office@creeksideconnected.com)

Pastor David: [pastordavid@creeksideconnected.com](mailto:pastordavid@creeksideconnected.com)

Jean Mann: [jmann@creeksideconnected.com](mailto:jmann@creeksideconnected.com)

**Staff Office Hours Week:**

**Cindy Harman:** 9:00 a.m. –12:00 p.m.; 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Mon. – Fri.

**Jean Mann:** Tues., Wed. 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Pastor David:** 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Tues. – Fri.

Bulletin and weekly news deadline: 12:00 Noon on Tuesday

**CREEKSIDE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**

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Elkhart, IN 46517

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574-875-7885 fax

**Merry Christmas!** Welcome to the Creekside Church for the celebration of Christmas Eve. We are glad you have come to worship with us, and hope the service will be a meaningful experience. A toddler's nursery service is being provided across the hall from the right rear of the sanctuary.

Please join us in the gathering area following worship for conversation and refreshments. Thank you for joining us, and we hope you will worship with us again in the future. Our Sunday worship is at 9:00 a.m., and church school is at 10:45 a.m.

**Our Mission:**

Because we are God's beloved in Christ, united in the Spirit we

**Seek** God's love in our lives

**Celebrate** God's love in vital worship

**Share** God's love through acceptance, service, and witness.



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