

Creekside Church of the Brethren

The Celebration of Christmas Eve

December 24, 2008, 7:00 p.m.

God didn't just come close to being human, didn't just seem almost human, God became a person with a face and a name, and was born among us, in the flesh.

-- Will Willimon

PRELUDE "O Holy Night" Adolphe Adam/arr Eleanor Whitsett

*HYMN NO. 212 (Blue) "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

WELCOME Pastor David

*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

One: Jesus Christ, the son of Mary, the Son of God is born this night.

All: God's word has been made flesh among us.

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

All: Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them a light has shined.

One: You, O Lord, have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder.

All: His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

One: His name shall be called Emmanuel,

All: for in him God is with us.

*HYMN NO. 197 (Blue) "Angels We Have Heard On High"

*PRAYER

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 9:2b, 6-7

ANTHEM "Angels, Shepherds, Kings and Stars" Mary Beall/John Carter

THE CHRISTMAS STORY Luke 2:1-20

HYMN NO. 215 (Blue) "What Child Is This"
What child is this, v. 1, Helpless and hungry, v. 1, followed by;
What child is this, v. 2, Helpless and hungry, v. 2, followed by;
both sung simultaneously on v. 3.

GOSPEL LESSON John 1:1-14

MEDITATION "God Has An Address" Pastor David

*HYMN NO. 318 (Blue) "Joy to the World"

The Sacrament of Communion

"A CHRISTMAS CREED" Walter Russell Bowie

One: I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem.

All: I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town; and whose spirit still brings music to persons all over the world in towns both large and small.

One: I believe in the one for whom the crowded inn could find no room, and I confess that my heart still sometimes wants to exclude Christ from my life today.

All: I believe in the one who the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand; whose life was among common people whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts.

One: I believe in the one who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible:

All: I believe in the one whose cradle was a mother's arms, whose modest home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth, who looked at persons and made them see what God's love saw in them, who by love brought sinners back to purity, and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.

One: I confess our ever-lasting need of God:

All: The need of forgiveness for our selfishness and greed, the need of new life for empty souls, the need of love for hearts grown cold.

One: I believe in God who gives us the best of himself.

All: I believe in Jesus, the son of the living God, born in Bethlehem this night, for me and for the world.

PRAYER

ANTHEM "All is Well" Michael W. Smith/Wayne Kirkpatrick
Arr. Ronn Huff

THE INVITATION

Isaiah 55:1-2

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (unison)

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

*HYMN NO. 463 vs. 1, 2, 4 (Blue)

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

THE AFFIRMATION

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.

COMMUNION

Candle Lighting Service

SCRIPTURES OF LIGHT

*HYMN

"Silent Night"

**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 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
"Al-le-lu-ia" to our King,
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born.**

POSTLUDE

"Joy to the World"

George Frederick Handel
arr Linda McKechnie

*Please stand as you are able.

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



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