

# Red Clay Creek *Presbyterian Church*

Christmas Eve | December 24, 2020 | 7:00 pm LiveStream

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*On this most holy night we are glad you have connected with us in this Service of Worship. We hope that through the music sung and the word spoken that we will hear this familiar story as if for the first time, that we might find our hearts moved by the power of God’s love revealed at the manger, and that our lives might be open to the possibility of transformation as we hear this story and celebrate the birth of a Savior. If you look closely, you will see a small Christmas tree decorated entirely with ornaments dropped off by congregation members—highlighting that even though we are physically distanced from one another this evening, our united efforts can bring great hope and joy. We invite you to have an unlit candle nearby, so that you may participate in the collective lighting of our candles in the sanctuary near the conclusion of the service.*

## We Prepare

### GATHERING MUSIC

*Worship the Newborn King*

Bell Choir

*If you have an advent wreath in your home, we invite you to light the Hope, Peace, Love and Joy candles as this service begins.*

### WELCOME

### CAROL

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

### LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Leader: “Good news of great joy,” the angel said,  
“for to you a savior is born”.  
“Peace on earth,” the choir sang,  
“for God reigns in the highest.”

“Follow me,” the star beckoned,  
“For Hope was born in Bethlehem.”

*As we light the advent wreath in the sanctuary, you are invited to light the Christ candle on your own advent wreath at home, a sign of our unity even though we are gathered only electronically.*



Leader: As we light the Christ candle,

**People: we watch for the Christmas story around us.**

Leader: Emmanuel has come and is coming.

**People: Come, all ye faithful, and worship God.**

CAROL

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

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 from true God, Light from light eternal,  
born of a virgin, mortal he comes;  
very God, begotten, not created! (refrain)

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Christ, you were born in a humble stable,  
because there was no room for you in the inn.  
Forgive us when we foolishly think  
that there is no room for you in our lives.  
When we close the doors of our hearts to your word,  
forgive us, and burst through them with your love.  
When we close the doors of our minds to your challenge,  
forgive us, and burst through them with your love.  
When we close the doors of our homes, our churches, our cities  
to people you would have us welcome,  
forgive us, and speak your angel's words to us once more: "Do not be afraid."

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

**We Hear the Story**

CAROL

*Angels We Have Heard On High*

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

*(continued)*

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

*Isaiah 9:2-7*

MUSICAL OFFERING

*What is This Lovely Fragrance*

Manz

SCRIPTURE READING

*Luke 2:1-14*

CAROL

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

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 the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

SCRIPTURE READING

*Luke 2:15-20*

MUSICAL OFFERING

*Sweet Little Jesus Boy*

MacGimsey

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

CAROL

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

## Responding

### GIFTS IN CELEBRATION OF THE CHRIST CHILD

*There are many wonderful opportunities to respond to the birth of our Savior. One of those opportunities to show our gratitude and to share our Christmas joy is by supporting the ministry of Red Clay Creek Presbyterian Church. Personal*

checks may be mailed directly to the church office at 500 McKennans Church Road, Wilmington, DE 19808, addressed to the attention of: Finance Office. Or, you are welcome to make a one-time or recurring gift online at <http://www.rccpc.org/giving> (click on "Give Now").

MUSICAL OFFERING

*O Holy Night*

Adam

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

*John 1:1-4,14*

*At the conclusion of the reading, please light your candle as a sign of the light of Jesus piercing through the night's darkness, while we do the same in the sanctuary.*

CAROL

*Silent Night, Holy Night!* vss. 1,2,3,4

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

POSTLUDE

*Away in a Manger*

Bell Choir



If you are looking for a way to deepen your spiritual roots, find some peace and wholeness for your life and to connect with a community of people who are seeking to make a difference in our community and our world, we would love to have you connect with us for our weekly worship services. While we look forward to the time when we can return to “in person” worship, in order to express our love for others during a pandemic we are currently worshipping only by Livestream. Our service is broadcast live on Sunday mornings at 10:30 am. If you are not able to connect with us at that time, you can connect with the service later in the week by going to <https://livestream.com/rccpc> and choosing the “watch again” option. You can find more information about us at <http://www.rccpc.org/> and if you wish to receive our weekly email, you can sign up for “Life at the Creek” on the homepage of our website.

\*For church activities, please go to our website and click on the tab titled “Virtual Meetings”.



Attributions: The cover graphic, entitled “Nativity with Mary, Joseph and the New-Born Christ” is a picture of stained glass created by J. Le Breton from the glass studio of Gaudin Paris. It is created in 1933. Source: from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=29379>. The Christmas Prayer is adapted from a prayer written by the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

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### WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Interim Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Randall T. Clayton
Associate Pastor:	Rev. Eric Koenig-Reinke
Director of Music:	Jeffrey Miller
Music Ministry:	Lynn Moffett, Barbara Vanderkraats, Martin Hargrove, & Bell Choir
Media Production:	Steve Armstrong, Al Leonhard