

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Woodland
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
December 24, 2021

Prelude—Dr. Jay Surdell and Dr. Pam Prater

Greeting—Larry Love

Special Music—Greg, Devon, Jordan, and James Hayakawa

“Still, Still, Still”

(Music: Austrian Melody: Words and Arrangement by Rory Cooney)

***Call to Worship**—Larry Love

(Please stand if you are able)*

One: Tonight, old dreams die and new dreams come to life. The promise is fulfilled!

All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

One: Hope gives way to joy and prayer to proclamation.

All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

One: Our candles illuminate our story. Dawn invades midnight. The Light of the World has come.

All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

One: And this light is a light for all; igniting a flame in the soul, warming us from within, radiating love, lighting our lives with the presence of God-come-alive in human flesh within us and among us now and always.

All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill to all.

***Carol**—“*Joy to the World*” Chalice Hymnal #143

(Verses 1 & 3)

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

3. He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Words: Isaac Watts; Music: Attr. George Frederick Handel.
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***Opening Prayer (Unison)—Larry Love**

O Holy God,
we hear the story
of shepherds and magi,
of maiden and carpenter,
of prophets and angels,
and we too come to Bethlehem for a blessing.
You are born in our hearts
because you have chosen
the weakness of our bodies for your birth.
We are filled with love
because you have taken upon yourself our humanity;
we are filled with hope
because you have offered us
your Spirit, your life and your light.
Our salvation has come to us
through this birth we celebrate this night
and we say together,
“Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth, peace and goodwill to all.” Amen.

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***Carol—“O Come, All Ye Faithful” Chalice Hymnal # 148**
(Verses 1 & 3)

1. 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;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!
3. Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
we would embrace thee, with love and awe;
who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Words: John F. Wade, tr. by Frederick Oakeley;

Music: John F. Wade.

The Light of Hope—Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7—Cheryl Grant

Soloist—Sarah Tarleton

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

The Light of Peace—Isaiah 11:1-9—Megan Bentz

Carol—“It Came upon the Midnight Clear” *Chalice Hymnal #153*

(Verses 1, 3, &4)

1. It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold;
“Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven’s all gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.
3. And you beneath life’s crushing load
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way,
with painful steps and slow,
look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing;
O rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing!
4. For lo, the days are hastening on,
by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold;
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

Words: Edmund H. Sears; Music: Richard S. Willis

The Light of Joy—*Luke 1:26-38, 46-55*—Diana Fallbeck

Piano and Organ Duet—Jay Surdell and Pam Prater

“Ding! Dong! Merrily on High,”

(Arranged by Cindy Berry)

The Light of Love—*Luke 2:1-20*—Larry Love

Carol—“O Little Town of Bethlehem” *Chalice Hymnal # 144*

(Verses 1 & 3)

1. 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.

3. How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the joy of highest heaven.
No ear may hear Christ coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still,
the dear Christ enters in.

Text: Phillips Brooks; Music: Lewis H. Redner

The Light of the World—*John 1:1-14*—Nancy Love

Lighting of the Christ Candle—Love Family

Carol—“*One Candle Is Lit*” *Chalice Hymnal # 128*

1. Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night,
our hearts long to greet you, as roses, the light.
Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage.
One candle is lit for the hope of the age.
2. Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare
for a gift that compels us with justice to care.
Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease.
One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace.
3. Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth,
join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.
Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise.
One candle is lit for the joy of these days.
4. Come, wander where lion and lamb gently play,
where evil is banished and faith takes the day,
a babe in a manger to fool the world's eyes.
One candle is lit for God's loving surprise.
5. Come, listen, the sounds of God-with-us ring clear,
and signs of a cross in the distance appear.
The Word once made flesh, yet the Word ever near.
One candle is lit for the Christ-birthday here.

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A Christmas Prayer—Larry Love

Violin Solo—Shirley Fischer
“Ave Maria”

Passing of the Light—Diana Fallbeck and Cheryl Grant

***Carol**—*“Silent Night” Chalice Hymnal #145*

1. 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.
2. Silent night, holy night,
shepherdsquake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
3. 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.
4. 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!

Words: Stille Nacht; Joseph Mohr, tr. John F. Young.
Music: Franz Gruber

Sending Forth—Larry Love

Postlude—Dr. Jay Surdell and Dr. Pam Prater

***Please stand if you are able**

A Word from the Elders of the Christian Church of Woodland

Thank you for joining us at this Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.
Your presence this night is a gift to all of the rest of us as we celebrate together the gift God has given to all of us in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, the babe of Bethlehem.
May the light and love and aliveness that God offers fill your lives afresh
this night and stay with you all through the year as you carry
the light of Christ into God's beloved world.

Thank You...

to Cheryl Grant, moderator of the elders who, along with the whole
elders' team, worked hard preparing this service,
to Drs. Jay Surdell and Pam Prater for their beautiful musical accompaniment,
to each of the elders, musician/vocalists, members and friends of the congregation
who have participated in this service of worship.

**The Christian Church of Woodland worships via Zoom at 9 a.m. and in person at 10:30
a.m. each Sunday. Our services can also be viewed on the
Christian Church of Woodland Facebook page.**

*We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ
we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.*