

A Service of Worship  
Presbytery of New Castle  
Sunday - December 27, 2020

**Welcome**

The Rev. Dr. Tracy Keenan

**Prelude**

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*  
Sally Waugaman, organist

ES IST EIN' ROS'

**Call to Worship**

*(based on Psalm 148 and Isaiah 9:6)*

Voice 1: Praise the Lord! Praise God from the heavens; praise God in the heights!

Voice 2: All the shining stars praise you, O God,  
for you commanded and they were created.

Voice 1: Praise God with cymbals and bells, you sun and moon and all creatures  
on earth - old and young together!

Voice 2: For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given.  
Let everyone praise the name of the Lord.

**Hymn**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*  
Alexis Ward, pianist and soloist

ST. LOUIS

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.

For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.

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

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.

**Prayer of Confession – Unison**

*(from Book of Common Worship)*

**God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

Be not afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy. God's grace has appeared for the salvation of all. Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*Please share the peace of Christ with those around you – or text/email/message someone to share the message and gift of Christ's peace today.*

**Scripture**

**Luke 2:25-38**

**Sermon**

“Christmas Hangover and the Hair of the Dog”

The Rev. Dr. Tracy Keenan

**Anthem**

*In the Bleak Midwinter*  
Raquel Faiello Teare, pianist

arr. Brent Edstrom

**Prayers of Intercession and 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.**

**Invitation to Give**

*Please donate to your own congregation through online giving or by sending a donation.*

**Hymn**

*Joy to the World*  
Alexis Ward, pianist and soloist

ANTIOCH

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.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

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.

### **Benediction**

### **Postlude**

*Sheep May Safely Graze*  
Dianne Deming – flute; Ann Whitman – piano

J.S. Bach

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### **Leading worship:**

Ruling Elder Bob Schminkey – Co-Interim Connectional Presbyterian/Stated Clerk  
The Rev. Sara Holben – Co-Interim Connectional Presbyterian  
The Rev. Dr. Tracy Keenan – Missional Presbyterian

### **Photography & Video Editing:**

The Rev. Dr. Thomas C. Davis – Interfaith Veterans Workgroup

### **Music – *performed courtesy of:***

Sally Waugaman – Music Director, Westminster Presbyterian Church of Rehoboth Beach DE  
Raquel Faiello Teare – Adjunct Professor of Piano,  
University of Mount Union, Alliance OH  
Alexis Ward – Music Director, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Wilmington DE  
The Rev. Dianne Deming – Interim Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Milford DE  
Ann Whitman – Pianist, First Presbyterian Church, Milford DE

### **Music:** All music performed is in the Public Domain

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

Music: *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesang* 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1609

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1868

Music: Lewis Henry Redner, 1868

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

Music: Gustav Holst, 1906; arr: Brent Edstrom

*Joy to the World*

Text: Isaac Watts, 1719

Music: Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742; arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

*Sheep May Safely Graze* - music in Public Domain

Music: Johann Sebastian Bach, 1713